

COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Dictator's Dilemma

SINCE the middle of 1950 when Marshal Tito instigated a policy of relaxation of the rigid Soviet-type Communist policy confirmed and perfected in Yugoslavia in the days of its alliance with Russia, Western observers have been eagerly discussing the limits to which the State is prepared to go in what may be termed the "democratisation" process. In the last three and a half years the Tito regime has undertaken a number of fundamental reforms, the most notable of which is the decentralisation of the rigid, over-centralised top-heavy State-controlled economy which entailed denationalisation of a number of industries and the dissolution of unprofitable collective farms. Government spokesmen now lay much stress on initiative and enterprise and even the profit motive that the latest Government statements bear an unmistakable resemblance to a Tory election manifesto. In fact, Tito has embarked on an extensive programme of "desovietisation" of his country. And this, coupled with his desire to build national socialism within the country, was rather the primary motive for the reforms instituted in recent years. Naturally, however, any trend away from the rigid Stalinist system involves the introduction of personal, economic and even political freedom and this is certainly obvious in Yugoslavia's case and no attempt has been made to disguise it.

ESSENTIALLY Tito's expressed aim is to mould the Yugoslav people into a single nation, to bring all the different national groups within the country to the standard of living enjoyed by the most prosperous—in this case the Slovaks. But Tito must now be aware that every step he takes away from doctrinal rigidity is bound to weaken the Party and therefore to weaken the authority of a regime which is still primarily based on it. That is his dilemma. He is opposed in his reforms by the old orthodox group who view with dismay the consequent — and perhaps logical — "Americanisation" of the country following their leader's acceptance of dollar aid. He is also opposed by a "liberal faction" who feel his reforms do not go far enough. This week, Milovan Djilas, a fervent liberal who was disarmed from all official posts in January this year following his heretical attack on Yugoslavia's one-party system, again criticised the inflexibility of the regime and urged the creation of a new Socialist party and a two-party system. Brave words by Mr Djilas but undoubtedly they were calculated to test official reaction. A rebuke by Tito is, in itself, of little significance to the liberals. The importance lies in whether Tito decides to silence or ignore this fearless advocate of something very close to Western-style democracy. For if the Dictator chooses to ignore him, it will be a sign of tolerance that will certainly be interpreted to mean that further relaxations in Government policy are now possible. It will also be interpreted as a sign of Marshal Tito's growing confidence in the country's progress towards national unity. Whatever the Marshal's views may be, however, one thing is certain; that although he has frequently been urged by Western socialists to adopt a more liberal system, he is today essentially the same individual who, in 1948, repudiated his country's ties with the Communists. He will, in short, not be betrayed by friends or foes but will act of the time he considers most appropriate for the good of his country.

MR FRANCE OVER ONE HURDLE

**But Still Another To Go
GERMAN ENTRY INTO NATO
APPROVED BY 38 MAJORITY**

Paris, Dec. 28.

The French Assembly approved German entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation last night but early today the National Assembly forced the Premier, M. Pierre Mendes-France, to demand at least one more confidence vote on the actual rearmament of West Germany and ultimate success is still in doubt.

Shortly after M. Mendes-France won a confidence vote on Germany entering NATO, the powerful Foreign Affairs Committee voted to recommend rejection of the Western European Union, under which Germany would be granted limited and controlled arms.

The vote was 20 to 19 with four abstentions. M. Mendes-France immediately announced he would demand a confidence vote on German rearmament alone at 4 p.m. Wednesday (1500 GMT). He said the government would draft a whole new ratification bill, leaving out WEU, in an effort to get around procedural difficulties.

Details of the new bill were not disclosed, but M. Mendes-France made it clear to the Assembly that it would call for ratification of German rearmament and would not include the once-defeated article outlining West European Union.

Last night the Assembly voted 289 to 251 in approving German entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The vote was hailed as a great victory for M. Mendes-France, who had staked the life of his Government on the issue.

M. Mendes-France, pale and obviously tired, made a moving appeal to the Assembly just before the first vote of confidence last night when he stressed that the future of France was in the balance.

He said bluntly he knew of no alternative to the Paris agreements. New meetings with Britain and the United States on this subject were no longer possible.

REDUCED TO ZERO

If the Paris agreements were rejected, "our credit with the United States and Great Britain will be reduced to zero. In Russia it will be little more once we have broken with our allies." He added: "A refusal would mean launching France on an adventure which would be

murderous for the country and its security.

His strong speech secured him the majority of 38 votes.

M. Mendes-France had intended to have another vote of confidence after his first success. But he withdrew it after the authors of two anti-Government motions aimed at holding up the application of the agreement's once they were ratified were withdrawn.

TACTICAL DEFEAT

This move was a tactical defeat for the Government's chief opponents, the Popular Republicans led by the former Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, who was mainly responsible for the rejection of German rearmament on Friday.

The Assembly's vote in favour of admitting Germany to NATO seems almost certain to be followed by another reversing its Christmas Eve verdict against rearmament Germany in the Western European Union.

But if the Assembly maintains its ban on German rearmament the entire "package" of the Paris agreements in Western defence, which are practically indivisible, would fall to the ground. Rejection of German rearmament would thus annul the admission of Germany to NATO and the Franco-German agreement on the Saar.

Even if the Assembly completes ratification by the middle of this week the agreement can have no immediate effect as they must still be endorsed by the West German Parliament and the French Senate.

FORMAL MAJORITY

But if the Senate rejects the Paris and Saar agreements the Assembly needs only pass another formal majority vote to give them force of law. The Senate may not, however, vote on them, perhaps for several months.

Until the French and German Parliaments complete these formalities and exchange instruments of ratification, Germany's military contribution to Western defence and its effect on the Atlantic Alliance would not become operative.

Commission Votes Not Binding

The Foreign Affairs Commission has an advisory capacity in the Assembly.

No explanation was immediately forthcoming as to why the Foreign Affairs Commission tonight voted against ratification of the German rearmament clause, although several weeks ago it recommended the Assembly to ratify the Paris agreement.

The Foreign Affairs Commission's vote are not, of course, binding on the Assembly and it was presumed that one reason for the negative advice by the Commission tonight was to force the Government to put the vote of confidence on this clause instead of trying to get it through tonight on a free vote.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Organised demonstrations around the Chamber of Deputies broke up without trouble when a Communist Deputy left the debate on German rearmament and asked the delegations to go home.

Hundreds of extra police lined the long riverside block from the Quai d'Orsay—the French Foreign Office—to the Chamber of Deputies as demonstrators massed around the Assembly.

A day carried signs calling on the Deputies to turn down German rearmament and the WEU, but there were no incidents. About 300, singing the Marseillaise, marched away to the nearby student cafes of Saint Germain des Pres.

U.K. OPTIMISM

But in London, M. Pierre Mendes-France's victory in the Assembly dispelled the gloom that spread over Government quarters on Christmas Eve, when the deputies rejected the treaty to rearm West Germany.

The result of the vote in Paris was immediately telephoned to Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, who are still in the country on holiday. There was no immediate Foreign Office comment.

Officials in London cautiously observed that tonight's vote was one of a number which had to be taken before the Western treaties are finally approved by the French Parliament.

LIKE GRATIFIED

Augusta, Georgia, Dec. 27. President Eisenhower, tonight expressed gratification at the French National Assembly

vote approving the entry of West Germany into NATO.

The President Press Secretary, Mr James Hagerty, told a press conference the President was gratified at the turn the proceedings had taken in Paris.

Senator Alexander Wiley, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in Washington that French approval of West Germany's entry into NATO was "welcome news of the greatest historical significance to all the free world."

But he added that the West could be sure Russia would continue to use "every sort of strategy in order to try to sabotage the pact."

GERMANY'S WELCOME

Bonn, Dec. 27. The vote in the French Assembly tonight was warmly welcomed by Government officials.

They said the favourable decision on NATO was a "happy omen" for the outcome of the other votes facing the Assembly to admit West Germany to the West European Union and give her a 500,000 strong army.

The deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Party, Herr Wilhelm Mellies, told Reuter the "narrow majority under British and American pressure" the Assembly had given German entry into NATO was "a bad start" for future Western co-operation. — All Agencies.

Big U.S. Carrier Coming Here

Norfolk, Dec. 27.

The 45,000-ton aircraft carrier USS Midway, which for more than 10 years has been attached to the naval base at Norfolk, left today to join the United States Fleet in the Pacific.

The Midway will join the Seventh Fleet and operate in the Japan, Korea and Formosa area as part of Task Force 77.

On her way she will call at Colombo, Singapore, Manila, Hongkong and Yokosuka. — France-Press.

X Certificate For "1984" Film

From Our Own Correspondent

The film of George Orwell's "1984," which is to be made early next year at Eclair Studios will be awarded an "X" horror certificate, which will ban all children from seeing it.

Mr Ralph Bettinson, a director of the independent company which is to make the film, said in Paris last night: "The script has been seen by the British censors and I had a cable today saying that no major decisions would be necessary."

The head of the company is the American producer Mr Peter Raitheon, former chief of R.K.O. Radio Pictures, who is flying to Britain next month to complete casting.

SCRIPT APPROVED

Agents for Mrs Sonia Blair, George Orwell's widow (he wrote under a pen name) said the film rights were sold more than six months ago for a substantial sum. Mrs Blair has passed the

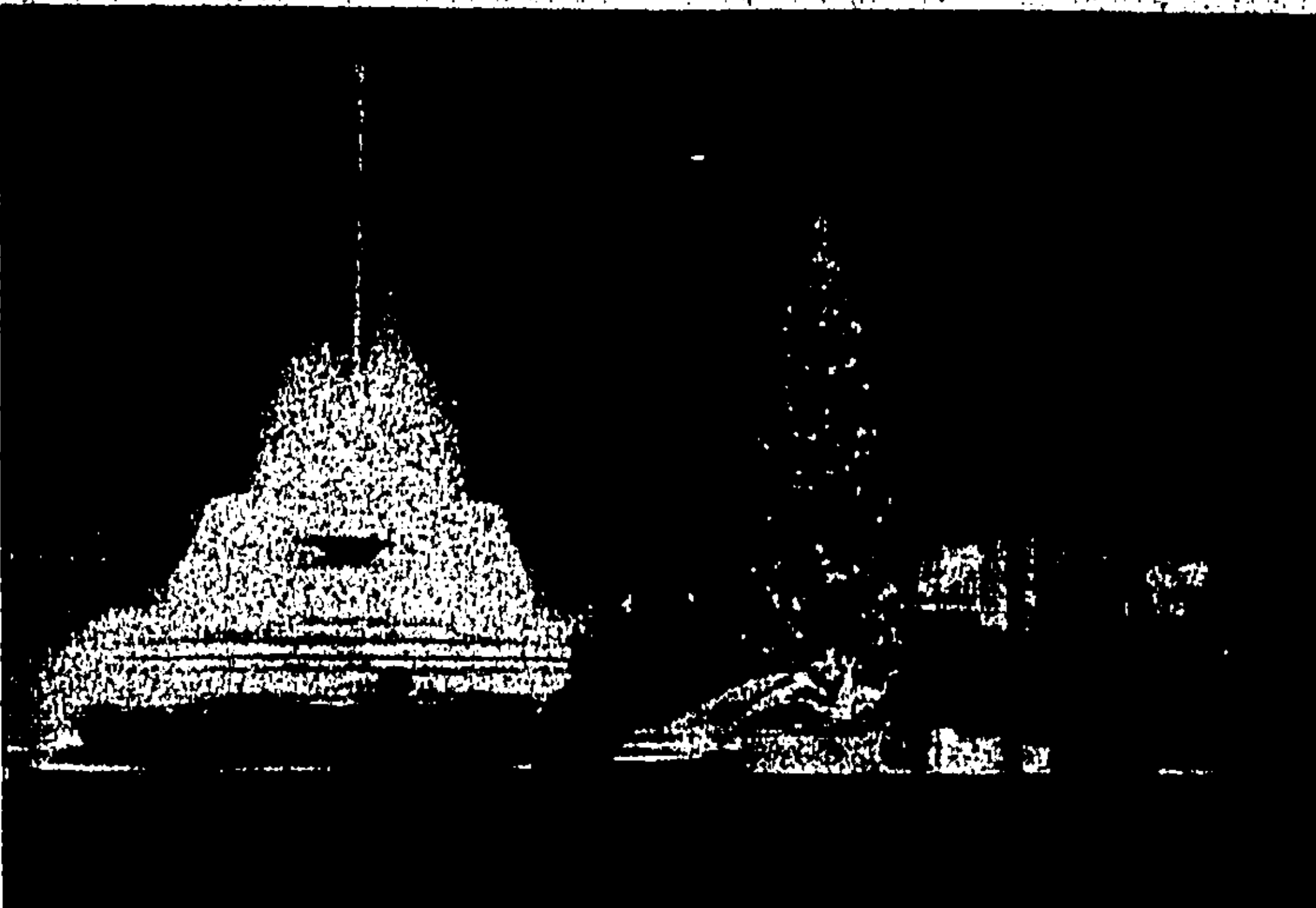
script as being a true adaptation of the book.

The biggest TV audience since the Coronation last week saw a repeat of "1984." It cut cinema attendances and packed public houses equipped with TV sets.

Before it began its second showing Mr Michael Barry, head of television's Grama department, warned viewers of its grimness.

He said that in the controversy that had raged since the first showing the play had been described as "disgusting and immoral." "I think it is neither," he declared. "No cuts were made. Millions of viewers saw the play again."

The Lights Go On In Trafalgar Square



Passers-by stop and look as the coloured lights decorating the Christmas tree in London's Trafalgar Square, are switched on for the first time last week. The tree, set up between two illuminated fountains, is the annual gift to London from Norway.—Reuterphoto.

Violent Earthquake Rocks Mediterranean Islands

Messina, Sicily, Dec. 27.

A sustained and violent 11-hour earthquake rocked the tiny Lipari Islands off the North coast of Sicily today, causing houses to collapse and spreading panic among the poverty-ridden inhabitants.

First reports said at least 20 buildings were injured and scores of houses damaged.

The Lipari Islands, lying about 50 miles north-west of the Messina Straits, are a volcanic group which includes Stromboli. Flery Stromboli staged a spectacular eruption on December 8 but none of the inhabitants was hurt.

The first warning of the earthquake came yesterday, when a one-hour tremor rocked the islands.

COMMUNICATIONS DISRUPTED

The first shocks ruptured communications between the islands and the mainland, but a radio link was restored this afternoon.

First reports indicated the quake struck hardest at Messina, on the island of Salina. Salina is a ten-square-mile dot in the Mediterranean composed of the cones of two extinct volcanoes.

The reports said the 5,000-odd fishermen, miners and farmers on Salina and the other islands fled into the fields in their night clothes as the earthquake started in the middle of the night. Some took shelter in caves which their forefathers used on similar occasions.

AFRAID TO GO HOME

The peasants covered in the caves or in hastily-erected tents, afraid to go home for fear of another shock. Earthquakes

are fairly common on the islands but this was the worst since the war.

At the Sicilian capital of Palermo the Red Cross hastily mobilised tents, field kitchens and emergency food supplies and sent them to the islands by boat.—United Press.

Weather In Europe

LONDON:

A mild sunny day over most of the country today drew thousands out to sports events or on trips to the countryside and sea coast.

Fog caused some trouble in the south-east but the only weather black spot was at the Devil's

High Altitude Jet Crash

San Jose, Calif., Dec. 27.

Two single-engine Panther jets on a high altitude test flight collided head-on near Mount Hamilton today with a "blinding" explosion witnessed by scores of persons over 75 miles away. Wreckage dropped over a wide area.

Two parachutes were seen to billow from the single-seat aircraft which apparently collided at an estimated 30,000 feet. The planes were attached to the Alameda, California, naval air station overhaul and repair depot.

First reports from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office said one pilot parachuted safely, landing near a private San Jose airport. But the operator of the airport said "no survivor was found" and that two empty parachutes were found.—United Press.

25 Killed In Landslides

Quito, Colombia, Dec. 27.

At least 25 people were reported today to have been killed by week-end landslides in the town of Cantagusa, 100 miles from here.

According to fragmentary reports over disrupted communications, the slides were due to heavy rains. The stricken area is in the rich platinum mining zone of the Atrato River.—United Press.

DAVIS CUP

Sydney, Dec. 28.

Vito Seixas and Tony Trabert of U.S.A. won the first set by 6-2 in the doubles of the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup.

The Americans played aggressive tennis and completely outplayed the Australians.

Head and Rosewall decided enough to take the second 6-4. The vital game proved to be the third, where the Australians broke through Trabert's service to go ahead.

The Americans won the third set 4-2.—U.P.—A

5 Asian Premiers Meeting Today

Djakarta, Dec. 28.

The Prime Ministers of five Asian nations open talks here today to prepare for a wider conference of Afro-Asian powers on world problems.

A major issue before the Premiers of India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia is whether to invite Communist China and Japan to the main conference expected to be held in February or March.

Mr Jawaharlal Nehru of India, U Nu of Burma and Mr Mohammed Ali of Pakistan have already arrived in Djakarta for the two-day talks. Sir John Kotelawala, Premier of Ceylon, is due later.

AGENDA

They will meet at the hill resort of Bogor, outside Djakarta, in the palace of President Soekarno, where the four visiting Premiers are staying.

Apart from the question of which nations are to be invited to the bigger conference, the Premiers must also reach agreement on an agenda.

Official sources say the question of anti-colonialism is expected to be one of the main subjects.

Three uninvited guests arrived here yesterday to urge the Premiers to champion the Arab cause in North Africa and Israel. They represented Arab organisations.

INDIAN FORMULA

The Times Correspondent in Djakarta said in a cable today that the Indian formula that Australia, New Zealand and Japan should be invited along with China would not find much favour with Indonesia because of Australian support of the Dutch in the West New Guinea dispute.

But the Indian Prime Minister, his correspondent continued, can be diplomatically "accommodating" when he wants to be and some arrangement likely to further Indian policy will no doubt be reached.

Mr Nehru's talks in Bangkok over the week-end may have opened his eyes to Siamese fears of Chinese intentions and his feeling already subscribers to the Five Principles. It is believed that the presence of Siam and the Philippines may be considered more profitable than an attempt to introduce Mr Chou En-lai to the Prime Ministers who do not want to meet him.

MATTER OF TIMING

Mr Nehru's problem is a matter of timing. He believes that tension in Asia will be relieved if his neighbours meet the Chinese and see they are smiling human beings first and Communists second—but if he tries to hurry the introductions, the present alignment in the Far East will become more marked.

If Siam and the Philippines are to become a part of the new political Asia, an attempt will have to be made now and not after the Chinese debut.—Reuter and The Times News Service (Copyright).

Just drive it!
WE'LL LET THE PERFORMANCE DO THE TALKING!

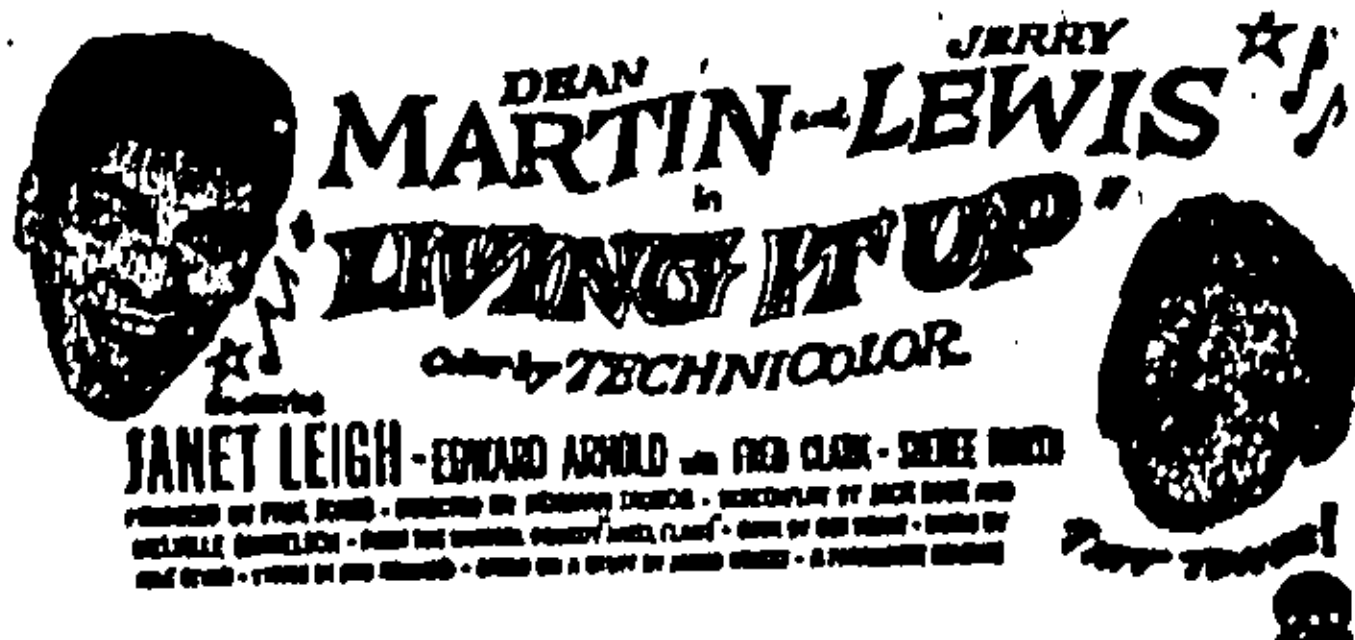
DAVIS CUP
Sydney, Dec. 28.
Vito Seixas and Tony Trabert of U.S.A. won the first set by 6-2 in the doubles of the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup.

MORRIS
DORVILLE MOTORS

KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

T-O-D-A-Y



KING'S PRINCESS

★ NEXT CHANGE ★



CAPITOL LIBERTY

4 SHOWS TO-DAY

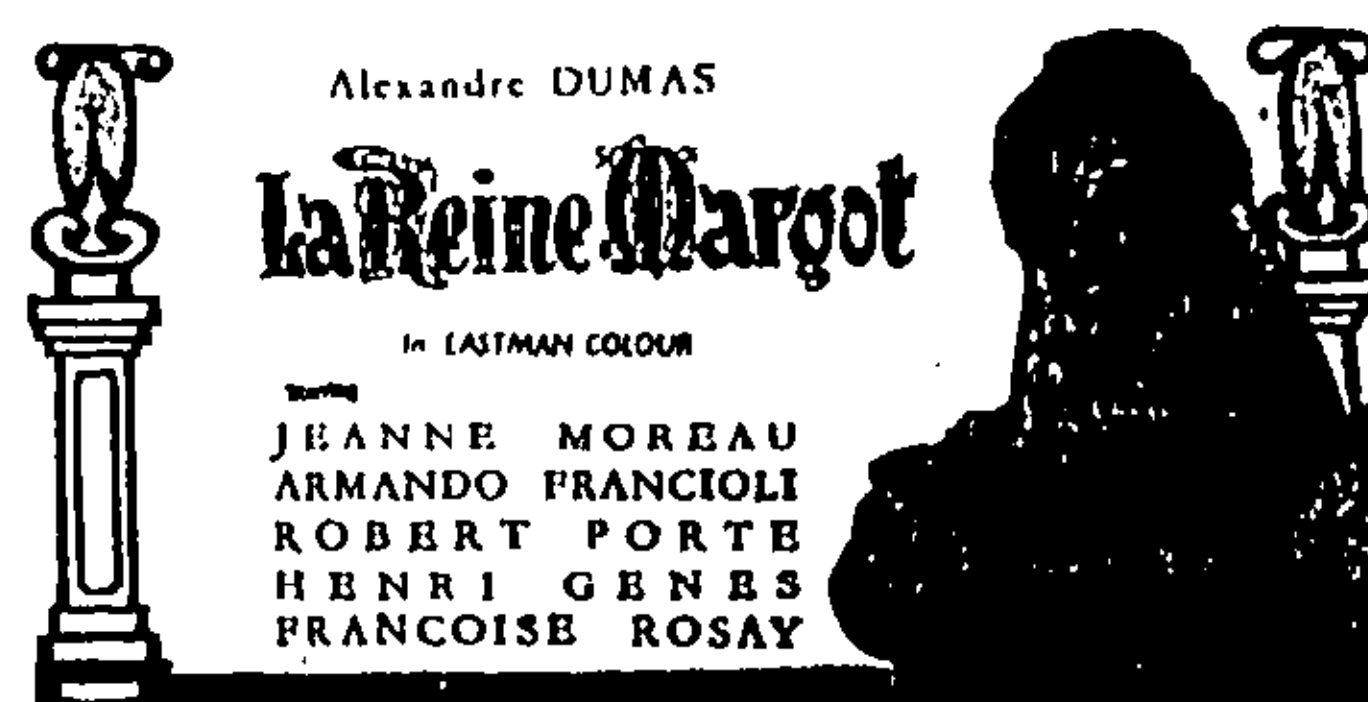
AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.



LEE GREAT WORLD

SHOWING TO-DAY

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



NEXT CHANGE AT THE LEE THEATRE

ROXY & BROADWAY

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.ADDED ATTRACTION! CINEMASCOPE Short Subject
"FLYING TO FISH" in Technicolor.

AID FOR YUGOSLAVIA

Britain Decides
To Join
New Programme

Belgrade, Dec. 27.

Britain has reversed her decision announced in June not to join any aid programme for Yugoslavia for the year ending June 30, 1955, according to an announcement by a Vice-President, Lieutenant-General Sretozar Vukmanovic.

He said Britain would give £2 million this year and the United States would provide \$40 million (£14 million) as well as at least 850,000 tons of wheat to offset Yugoslavia's worst harvest since the first world war.

According to a usually reliable source here, Britain promised several months ago to alter her June decision and to continue aid if Yugoslavia and Italy settled their dispute over Trieste.

Tanjung, the Yugoslav News Agency, quoted General Vukmanovic as saying that Yugoslavia's heavy defence efforts and her efforts to balance her external accounts decided the Government of the United States, Britain and France to continue aid.

CONFERENCE SUGGESTED

The Vice-President suggested that a conference should be held of Yugoslavia's creditors to convert medium-term loans into long-term ones. The United States should provide a long-term credit to cover Yugoslavia's short-term loans.

He spoke favourably of economic relations with all Yugoslavia's main trading partners except West Germany, which he criticised because of the failure of Yugoslav-West German discussions in Bonn last week to settle Yugoslavia's claims on Germany dating from before and during the war.

Tanjung quoted General Vukmanovic as saying that £10 million (about £6,788,000) worth of compensation arrangements had been concluded with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Eastern Germany this year.

Foreign trade with these countries had been revived after several years' interruption. Negotiations were pending or had been opened with them to conclude trade and payments agreements in preparation for expanded trade in the coming year.

Trade with both Eastern and Western countries would be expanded, he said.—Reuter.

LESS OPIUM
FOUND IN
SINGAPORE

Singapore, Dec. 28.

Customs authorities have seized nearly 3,000 pounds of raw opium so far this year compared to the 5,500 pounds seized during 1953.

The major part of the drug, worth approximately \$33,000, came from Burma and Thailand, from the opium-growing countries around China's Yunnan Province.

The rest of the haul, Customs authorities revealed, came from Persia and India.

Most of the opium confiscated was found hidden among the cargo and in engine rooms of ships coming from Burma, Thailand, Indian and Persian ports.

The authorities recently seized some 100 pounds of opium from the tail compartment of an aircraft which arrived here from Rangoon.—France-Press.

4,000 Cars
Stolen In
South Africa

Johannesburg, Dec. 28.

More than 4,000 cars are stolen throughout South Africa each year. Most are recovered, many in a seriously damaged condition, but 106 have vanished this year without leaving a trace.

It is estimated that at least 1,000 cars are taken or tampered with each month. Police have no accurate records of roadside thefts, because many motorists do not report minor incidents as they do not want to lose non-claim bonuses.

Apart from car thefts to strip valuable accessories such as radios, tyres and wheels, there are hundreds of cases of vehicles being taken for joy riding and then abandoned, sometimes without petrol and in a damaged condition.—Reuter.

FILM AWARD

New York, Dec. 27.

The annual award of the Independent Motion Picture Association of America for the best foreign language film of the year today was presented to the Japanese colour film "Gate of Hell."

Presenting the award, Mr. Bosley Crowther, film critic of the New York Times, hailed its qualities of beauty, imagination and sheer suspenseful excitement. Mr. Jiro Taniguchi, Consul-General of Japan here, accepted the award for the Daito Motion Picture Company of Japan, which produced the film.—Reuter.

TO-DAY
ONLY

MAJESTIC

AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



TO-MORROW! "THE JOE LOUIS STORY"

FRANCE MAY
BUILD OWN
ATOM BOMBS

Paris, Dec. 27.

France is considering the possibility of building her own atomic bombs, authoritative sources said today.

It was disclosed that an exchange of views on warlike use of nuclear energy was held during a Cabinet meeting last night.

No decision was reached, it was said.

MINISTERS' FEELINGS

Many Ministers were described as feeling there had been no need shown yet for France to have her own A-weapons.

They felt it would be more profitable to concentrate on peaceful use of nuclear energy. A European Foundation is being set up in Switzerland for this, with French membership.

But others, it was authoritatively reported after the closed session, were mindful of the possible loss of French prestige in the international field irrespective whether the reluctant Chamber of Deputies finally shied through German rearmament.

These Ministers saw in the manufacture of atomic weapons a chance for France to increase her weight in Big Power meetings, according to the sources.

Premier Pierre Mendes-France's own views were not disclosed on the ticklish problem of whether A-weapons should be built in this country, which has the second largest Communist Party in Europe.

The Ministers discussed the economic, scientific, financial and industrial problems of building French A-bombs.

Present atomic arms in Europe are in the hands of American forces. Although the Americans can train their NATO allies in atomic defence and strategy, American-built A-weapons must for the present at least remain in the possession of the U.S. forces.

The proposed French budget for 1955 contains no provision for expenditure on atomic weapon research, although some funds are provided for research into nuclear energy.

STRONG ADVOCATE

Among those attending the meeting was M. Jules Moch, permanent French representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission and a strong advocate of disarmament and the banning of nuclear weapons.

Others included the Finance Minister, Edgar Faure, the National Defence Minister, M. Emmanuel Tardieu, the Secretaries for Air (M. Diemied Catroux), War (M. Jacques Chabanol) and Navy (M. Henri Chailavet) as well as the Secretary of State for Scientific Research, M. Jean Longchambon, and the High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, M. Francois Perrin.—United Press.

Allies Could
Have Won
Korean War

Washington, Dec. 27.

Printed copies of testimony by the retired American General Edward Almond that the Allies missed two chances to win the Korean war were made available for public distribution today by the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee.

According to the testimony taken at a public hearing before the Sub-Committee on November 23, General Almond, who commanded the Inchon landing during the Korean war and served as Chief of Staff under General Douglas MacArthur, said that he believed that the war could have been won first in November 1950, had the United Nations forces been permitted to bomb the Chinese Communist forces across the Yalu river.

The second chance was lost, he said, in June 1951, when General James Van Fleet received orders to halt the advance of General Almond's Fifth Army.

POP



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

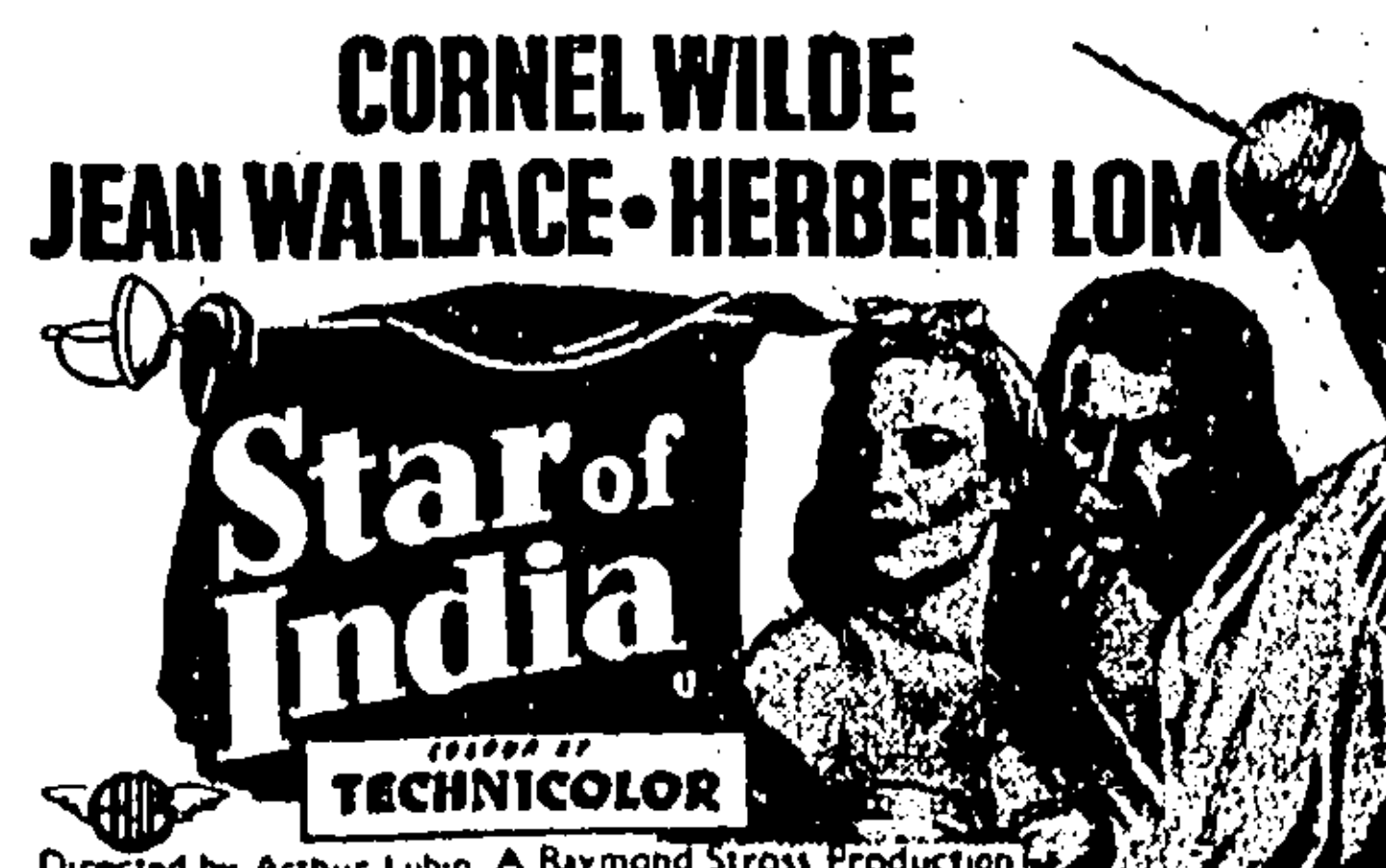
SHOWING TO-DAY

HIS BIGGEST ADVENTURE!



NEW YEAR ATTRACTION! Warner Bros. presents in Warnercolor "YOUNG AT HEART" Doris DAY • Frank SINATRA

HOOVER

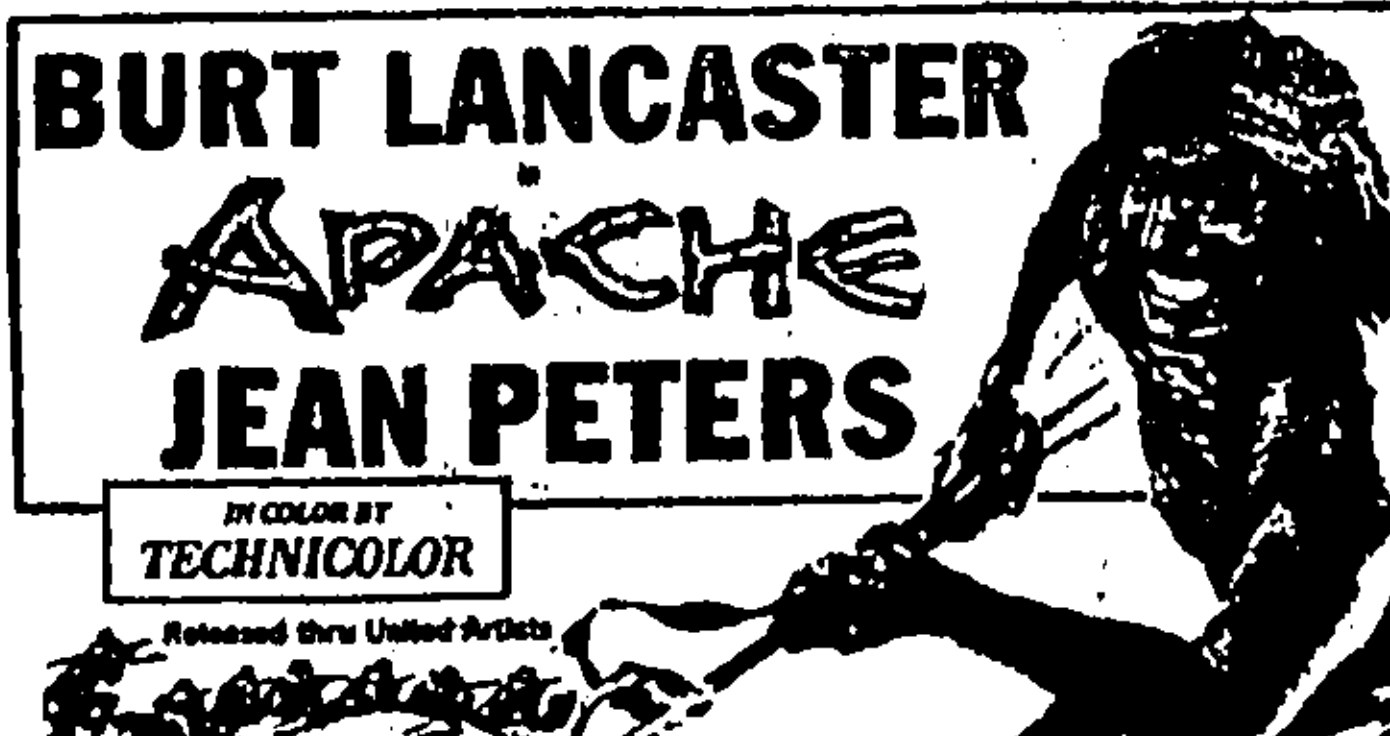
NOW PLAYING
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

STARTING THURSDAY, DEC. 30th

"CRIMES of PARIS"

HOOVER: GREAT WORLD

COMING: THE UNCONQUERABLE!



Watch for its opening day!!!

RITZ

SHOWING
TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

Bumpered off!





POPE PIUS XII

POPE MAY HAVE OPERATION

Vatican City, Dec. 27. Pope Pius XII has responded well to the strength-building programme of increased amounts of food and exercise prescribed by the team of five doctors treating him, Vatican sources said today.

Under the programme it is possible the 78-year-old Pope will become strong enough for the doctors to operate and correct the hernia of the diaphragm which caused his collapse 25 days ago, the sources said.

The Pope made "very encouraging" progress over the Christmas holiday and is gaining strength steadily, the sources added. His condition has improved so that the doctors have stopped giving him the blood and plasma transfusions begun after his collapse on December 2.

Since Christmas there has been no trace of the hiccups that accompanied the Pontiff's gastritis, the sources said. The Pope now is able to digest increasing quantities of strength-building meals.

RESTFUL NIGHT
The Papal physician, Prof. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, reported after a visit this morning that his patient spent a "very restful night."

The Pope heard mass seated in an armchair in his study and then breakfasted on boiled eggs and read the newspaper. Later, Mr. Angelo Delicqua, deputy-secretary of state, visited him to discuss affairs of the Church.

The Pope is working steadily on his 4,000-word Christmas address which he expects will be ready by New Year. Illness delayed its preparation.

It will be published in the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* when finished. It includes another appeal for world peace, the sources reported.

Despite the Pope's marked improvement, Vatican sources warned the Pontiff still is weak. In line with his doctors' programme to build his strength the Pope takes daily outings in the Vatican Gardens.—United Press.

U.S. ARMED FORCES CUT

Senator Wants Careful Investigation

'ONE OF BIGGEST GAMBLES KNOWN'

Washington, Dec. 27.

Senator John C. Stennis said today that Congress must investigate carefully to determine whether the Administration's proposed cuts in United States armed strength can be "justified" by the modern concepts of atomic warfare.

The Mississippi Democrat is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He made the statement as another Senate Democrat—Senator Mike Monroney—urged that the Committee make a careful study of the entire defence programme emphasising the cuts in ground force manpower and the proposed reserve programme.

Sen. Monroney said that the cuts in Army and Marine strength constitute "one of the biggest gambles" the United States has ever known. He said decreasing the strength of the Army and Marines could be an invitation for more of the "nibbling tactics" employed by the Soviet Union.

Sen. Stennis did not say he opposes the proposed cuts. In Army, Navy and Marine armed strength announced last week by the Secretary of Defence, Mr. Charles E. Wilson. He said that the cuts must be "carefully and thoroughly" investigated.

ALTER IDEAS

"There is no question but that modern warfare makes it possible to alter certain of the ideas we have always had about manpower," Sen. Stennis said.

"The question will be whether these cuts can be justified on that basis."

Sen. Stennis said he is inclined to favour the Administration's plan for building up United States reserve forces through a continuation of the draft coupled with a sort of voluntary programme of universal military training.

"We have got to build up the reserve," Sen. Stennis said, "and I believe something of this sort will do the job."

Sen. Monroney agreed that some such programme is necessary to build up the reserve, but he criticised the move to cut down ground forces.

Sen. Monroney said the manpower cuts apparently are based on the assumption that the world climate now seems more favourable for avoiding war.

"That may be true as far as World War III is concerned," he said, "but it surely does not

apply to the kind of nibbling wars which have been taking place."

Mr. Wilson announced last Monday that the United States Armed Services, which at present number 3,218,000 will be cut to 2,815,000 by mid-1959 with the Army, Navy and Marine taking reductions in strength. The total had been a goal for armed strength by mid-1957. The new plan amounts to accelerating the reduction.

RESERVE PROGRAMME

The new reserve programme, announced three days previously, would continue the draft law for four years to obtain young men for two-year hitch in the armed services. In addition it would set up a programme to give six months' military training to 100,000 youths a year.

The reserve programme is designed to make available combat ready reserves totalling 3,000,000 by 1960.—United Press.

U.S. Madrid Embassy To Cost £1M

Madrid, Dec. 27.

Madrid's new United States Embassy building will, it is estimated, have cost 3,000,000 dollars (over £1,000,000) by the time it is finished next year.

The nine-storey Embassy, a functional building resembling somewhat the United Nations palace in New York, but only 38 metres (about 124 feet) high, was begun in 1952. Then its cost was estimated at 1,250,000 dollars (about £420,000).

Recently, a sub-committee of the House of Representatives studied the cost of the building during a visit to Madrid. Representative Harrison Williams described the new Embassy as "born in extravagance and based on the belief that the United States would never run out of money."

There has been local criticism of the architecture of the new Embassy and recently the writer Rafael Garcia Serrano in the Spanish newspaper *"Arriba"* described it as "one of the two ugliest buildings in Madrid."

Other critics, however, have approved of its light and airy character.

One critic said: "Spanish public offices are often built without sufficient consideration for the light and other conditions in the rooms to be used by the employees. The new American building is an example of careful planning in this respect."—Reuters.

NEW HOSPITAL

Athens, Dec. 27.

A new 200-bed hospital, built largely with funds provided under the Marshall Plan, has been officially opened here.

The "Princess Alexandra" Maternity Hospital and the "Queen Frederica" Nurses Training School were inaugurated in the presence of the King and Queen of Greece.—Reuters.



Glibert Houche, Swedish wild animal tamer, showing his sensational number with seven lions. One of them jumps through a loop held by the tamer. Houche is seen at the opening performance of the Circus Festival now being held in Lyons. 13 circus companies take part.—Express Photo.

Kotelawala Wants To Promote World Friendship

Manila, Dec. 28.

Mr Carlos Garcia, Philippines Vice-President, and concurrently Foreign Minister, said here today that Sir John Kotelawala, Ceylon's Premier, impressed him "as one who wants to promote the friendship of all peoples, both the Communists and non-Communists, but in a showdown, he and his country will side with the Democracies."

Mr Garcia had the most contact with Sir John, accompanying him on a tour of historic places in and around Manila, and on a side trip to Baguio, in Northern Luzon.

Mr Garcia also said he was awaiting word from Sir John on his return to Ceylon on the relative possibility of Ceylon's buying her sugar requirements from the Philippines.

Sir John said there was no reason why Ceylon should not buy the Philippines' surplus sugar.

COPRA EXPERTS

Mr Garcia also urged that the Philippines should take advantage of Sir John's offer to send to the Philippines Ceylon copra experts to help the Philippines to improve the quality of its copra products.

Mr Garcia said he and Sir John discussed the feasibility of exchanging trade missions to help the Philippines to determine what products could be exchanged by the two countries.

He said he would discuss with the Philippines businessmen soon a plan to bolster trade between Ceylon and the Philippines.

Mr Garcia appeared unimpressed by Sir John's belief that what Asia needed was "not blocs with set rules and regulations and objectives but something like a commonwealth which is a family."

Mr Garcia said Sir John's idea was grand, but it needed further study. He added the Philippines was already a member of the United Nations and other

Molotov At Yugoslav Reception

Moscow, Dec. 27.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, today attended a reception given by the Yugoslav Ambassador, Mr Dobrovic Vichic, in honour of a Yugoslav trade delegation which is visiting Russia.



MR. MOLOTOV

Also present at the reception were Mr Anastas Mikoyin, First Vice-Premier and Minister of Trade, Ivan Kabanov, Minister of Foreign Trade and Valentin Zorina, Deputy Foreign Minister.

The Ambassadors of Britain, France, the United States and Communist China also attended.—France Press.

2,000 Natives Injured

Johannesburg, Dec. 27.

Hospital officials said today that some 2,000 Johannesburg natives were injured in stabbings, assaults and accidents during the period from Christmas Eve until today, but that there were only four deaths in this total.

They said that the 2,000 injured were an "unprecedented" number. Sixteen persons were killed in the Union of South Africa in traffic mishaps.—United Press.

NEW FIND IN SOLAR BOAT

Cairo, Dec. 27.

Egyptian archaeologist Mr Kamal El Mallakh, today reported the discovery of five cedar oars on the deck of the 4,000-year-old Cheop's solar boat when another huge limestone block was lifted from the rock cover over the boat.

The block was the 25th to be removed from the 42 making up the rock cover over the solar boat.

Mr Mallakh said the oars, lying diagonally on the starboard side of the deck, were each about six yards long and "in very good condition."

When the solar boat was first discovered, a nine-yard long car was found on the centre deck, intended for use as a rudder.

Mr Mallakh said he counted 25 U-shaped copper joints connecting the planks of the deck, in addition to wooden joints used in early ancient Egyptian dynasties.—United Press.

Nearly 500 Killed In America Over Holidays

Chicago, Dec. 27.

Traffic accidents during the Christmas week and killed 380 persons, a record for a two-day Yuletide period, a United Press survey showed today.

Mr Ned Dearborn, President of the National Safety Council which had predicted 370 traffic fatalities, said:

"We can only hope that the shock of this toll will result in greater care, courtesy and common sense in traffic over the New Year's holiday."

"This is a bloody way to celebrate a holiday dedicated to peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

In addition to the traffic deaths from 8 p.m. Friday to midnight Sunday, 51 persons died in fires, two in plane accidents and 51 in miscellaneous mishaps, for a total accidental death toll of 484.

California led the nation in traffic deaths with 38, followed by Texas, 31, Illinois and Pennsylvania, 22 each, Ohio 20, New York and Michigan, 19, and Florida and North Carolina, 15.

The traffic toll was the highest for a two-day Christmas holiday since the Council began keeping records after World War II. A spokesman noted, however, that the previous record of 288 was set in 1948, when the post-war car shortage resulted in fewer cars being on the highway.—United Press.

ISRAEL TO PRODUCE INDUSTRIAL URANIUM

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 27.

Israel will soon begin to produce uranium on an industrial scale.

Dr Ernst D. Bergmann, former head of the Weizmann Institute of Science and now Chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, partially lifting a 30-month "blackout" on achievements of Israel's nuclear research, disclosed two salient facts here recently:

1. The exploitation of low-grade uranium ores has now become commercially worthwhile through a new process devised by Israeli scientists.

2. A method is being perfected in Israel for the production of heavy water through chemical processes rather than by the electrolysis method beyond the reach of countries lacking cheap electricity.

The two raw materials necessary in an atomic pile will thus come within the grasp of one of the world's smallest countries.

It was the former Prime Minister, Mr David Ben Gurion, now living in retirement as a shepherd in the Negev, who first prompted nuclear research in Israel nearly three years ago.

A GAMBLE

His critics said that it was a gamble for the tiny country to engage in costly experiments. But, whether a bold gamble or faith in his young scientific advisers, results already obtained indicate that even small countries have contributed to the making of the force which is bound to change the course of history.

In the laboratory and the pile-plant, Israeli scientists have already proved that many countries endowed only with low-grade uranium ores may exploit them profitably and that countries without cheap electric power can nevertheless produce heavy water.

Already Israel's discoveries have attracted the attention of French nuclear researchers. About 18 months ago, an agreement was concluded between the Atomic Energy Commissions of the two countries, placing at the disposal of France the methods devised by Israel.

Details of the processes involved are still a guarded secret here.

Only broad descriptions could be obtained here from Dr Bergmann shortly after a statement by M. Jules Moch, the French delegate on the Political Committee of the United Nations, who said that the Israel invention, now under investigation in France, had taken the initiative in heavy water production away from electricity rich countries like Norway.—Reuters.

Former Reds Accused Of Blackmail

Belgrade, Dec. 27.

The Vice-President of the Yugoslav Communist Party Executive Council, Edouard Kardelj, speaking officially in the absence of President Josip Tito, tonight denounced "as 'blackmail' the attacks made against Yugoslav Communism last week by former leading Communist Milovan Djilas and Vladimir Dedijer."

Mr Djilas, expelled from the Yugoslav Communist Party in January for his unorthodox views, gave an interview to the "New York Times" last week in which he declared that Yugoslavia should create a new Socialist Democratic Party and introduce the two-party system.

Mr Dedijer, President Tito's official biographer, is accused of writing similar articles in the foreign press.

LET WORLD KNOW

Mr Kardelj, speaking at a Communist congress in Sarajevo, said that the object of the two former Communists was to "let the world know that they still exist by running down Yugoslav democracy."

"They have miscalculated their blackmail," he continued. "They realise that social democracy cannot be blackmailed, especially by discredited politicians who have lost all sense of responsibility towards their own people. They are hoping in vain that they will become political factors, thanks to the 'New York Times' and 'The Times'."—France-Press.

New Empire appeal for help in road safety

Singapore Asks Hampstead

London, Dec. 27.

Hampstead's road safety experts have received another call for assistance from the Commonwealth—this time from Singapore.

In June, the road safety officer, Mr George H. Wade, was asked for advice by four Ceylonese who had learned of Hampstead's claim that no child had died on the roads there for eight years.

Hampstead's safety experts have written to Mr Wade "I used to see observations and would like to adopt some of your ideas in Singapore."

—London Evening Standard.

CROCODILES FRIGHTEN LOOTERS

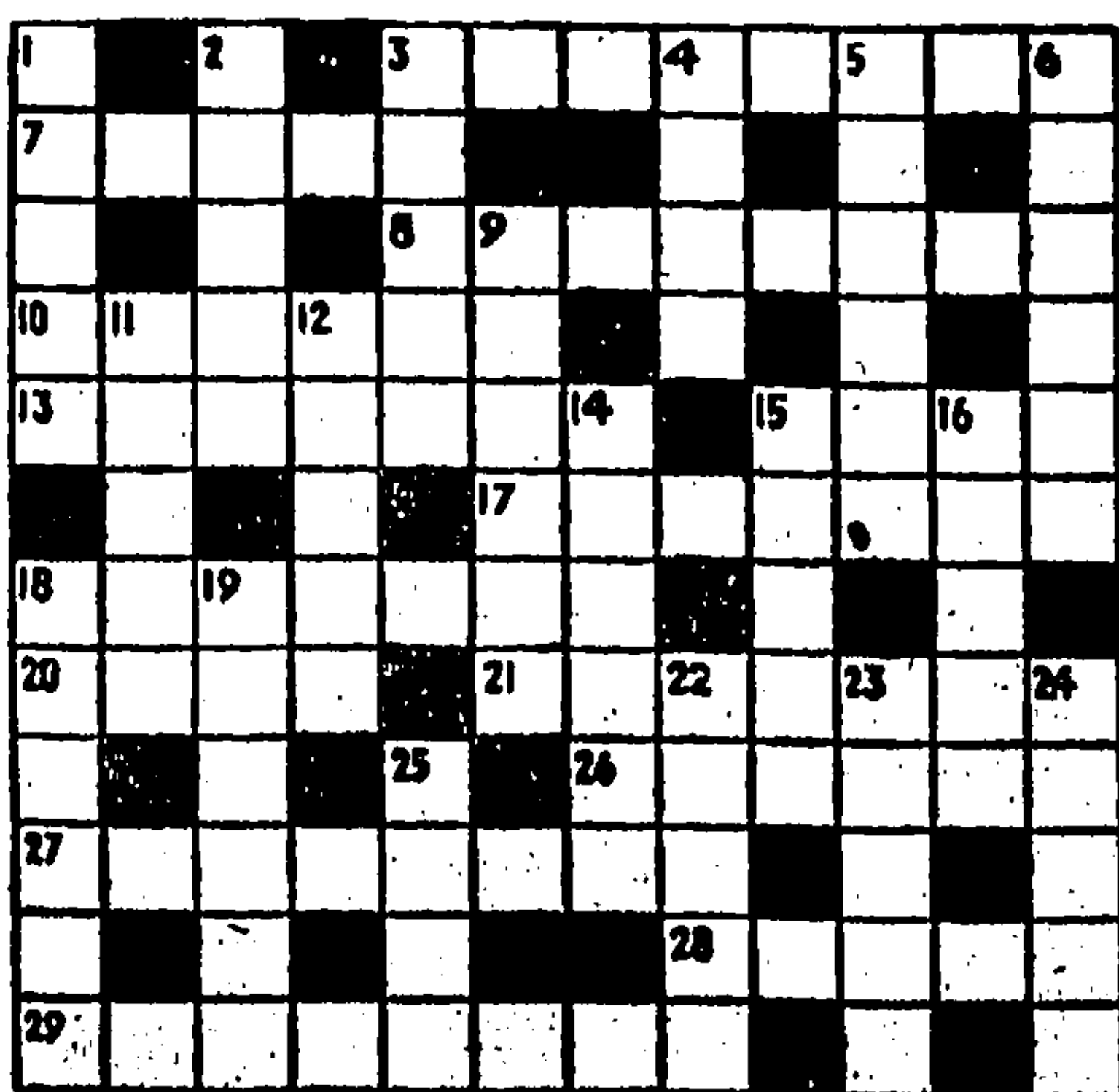
Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 27.

There was no looting during the floods in the nearby town of Kota Tinggi last week—at least not after the word went round that two crocodiles were preying for food in the main streets, where four feet of water had surged in on the heels of a storm.

"There was some pilfering before that," admitted the District Officer. "But afterwards, Kota Tinggi was a very honest town," he added.

The crocodiles, making most of the floods, swam into the streets. They are a big in front of the fire station, and then were reported, "There were some crocodiles in the street," he said.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Quail (6).
- 7 Negotiate (5).
- 8 Plunder (6).
- 10 Elaborately adorned (6).
- 13 Bishop's district (7).
- 15 Porous (4).
- 17 Advanced in years (7).
- 18 Coward (7).
- 20 Medicinal plant (4).
- 21 Places of worship (7).
- 23 Haunt (6).
- 27 Scatter (6).
- 28 Truck (6).
- 29 Confirms (8).

DOWN

- 1 Got to one's feet (5).
- 2 Jollification (colloq) (5).
- 3 Express (5).
- 4 Support (4).
- 5 Indiarubber (6).
- 6 Stable (6).
- 8 Ambition (6).
- 11 Competitor (6).
- 12 Sharp (6).
- 14 Scissors (6).
- 15 Harvest (5).
- 16 Change (5).
- 18 Litter (6).
- 19 Picked (6).
- 22 Encounters (6).
- 23 Fulfilled (6).
- 24 Fulfilled (6).
- 25 Fruit (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Hectic, 2. Hides, 3. Colon, 4. Pious, 5. Shire, 6. State, 7. Look, 8. Erase, 9. Amused, 10. Stress, 11. Sheen, 12. Talo, 13. Soars, 14. Facts, 15. Patient, 16. Ether, 17. Mend, 18. Debtor, 19. Down, 20. Hopless, 21. Covert, 22. Ice, 23. Costume, 24. Hostess, 25. Inhale, 26. Seals, 27. Adjacent, 28. Exactor, 29. Archaic, 30. Unarmed, 31. Tied, 32. Heave, 33. Sore.

THE TOUGH TALKER they call BIG BILL

A man-in-the-news profile by HUGH DUNDAS

Sen. Knowland

WASHINGTON. HE is known to one and all as Big Bill. He is big—over 6 ft. tall, 14 st. 4 lb. heavy, and he talks as tough as he looks.

You may not yet have heard of Senator William Fife Knowland, Republican leader in the U.S. Senate.

But you will.

If Eisenhower refuses to run again, or if his health prevents it, or if there is a serious split in the Republican Party—then Knowland might well get the presidential nomination.

And there would be a chance—less than an even chance, but still not negligible—that this man who now wants to block the Red China, who wants to break off diplomatic relations with the Russians, who is generally known as "the senator from Formosa," would be elected President of the United States.

What kind of man is this, whose policies so often send a shiver of alarm across the world?

Billy the boy

YOUNG Billy Knowland was born and reared in the aura of politics. His father, a newspaper publisher from Alameda, California, was serving the third of six consecutive terms as Representative in the U.S. Congress when Billy was born on June 26, 1908. So the boy spent the first years of his life in Washington.

When he went to the University of California at 17 he read political science—and from then he has rushed forward along his chosen path.

Youngest member of California's State Assembly at 25; youngest member of the State Senate at 27; youngest member of the Republican National Committee at 30; youngest chairman of the executive committee of the National Committee at 33; youngest U.S. senator at 37—he was appointed in 1945, while serving as an army major.

In 1952 he was re-elected with the biggest majority California has ever given a senator.

A few months later he was chosen by the dying Robert Taft to take his place as majority leader, the parliamentary "Prime Ministership" of the United States.

Young William Knowland had really arrived.

There is no difficulty at all about tracing Knowland's developing thoughts and policies as a senator. They are charted for all to see.

IN 1948 he was leader of a small group which threatened to torpedo Marshall Aid legislation unless Chiang Kai-shek got a cut of the proceeds. Result: 400,000,000 dollars for the generalissimo.

DURING THE KOREAN WAR he constantly called for stronger and more extensive action by United Nations forces. He was a staunch supporter of General MacArthur.

IN 1952, after MacArthur's recall, he demanded sanctions against Russia unless that country stopped giving aid to the North Koreans.

IN 1953 he challenged Russia's right to sit in the United Nations.

AFTER THE KOREAN TRUCE he repeatedly stated that the United States should intervene on a massive scale in the event of a breach of the armistice by the Chinese—even though that meant risking war with Russia.

LAST MAY he said that the United States should be ready to fight to save Indo-China.

IN JULY he said he would, if it came to the point, resign as Senate leader in order to fight the inclusion of Red China in the United Nations.

IN SEPTEMBER he wanted the U.S. Air Force to act if necessary to save Quemoy, Nationalist-held island outpost within artillery range of the mainland; and he called for a break-off of diplomatic relations with Russia, after a navy plane had been shot down over the China Sea.

A FEW WEEKS AGO he called for a naval blockade of China.

Such a cold recital of the Knowland story may make him seem like an out-and-out

Jingoist. But that is not the case at all.

When you have seen Big Bill Knowland in action on the Senate floor you cannot help respecting him.

Billy the Big

HERE is a man who believes with all his big, full heart in the cause and policies he pro-pounds.

Knowland wants the U.S. Government to talk tough, act tough, throw patience to the winds. And his conviction that these ideas are right is so strong that he has now taken the drastic step of breaking openly with the President so far as foreign policy is concerned.

And because he has in all important things a record of absolute and unswerving consistency there is no reason to suppose that he will not carry the same cause and policies with him to the White House—if that is indeed the way he is heading.

ALL MY OWN SAGA...

By RENE MCCOLL

London. They swarmed to the airport to meet us in Cape Town and Johannesburg and Pretoria. Crowds broke police cordons. Pretty girls clamoured for the MacColl autograph—which he gave with a slight flourish.

So that is why it is going to seem strange this time to step from the plane at Johannesburg and find myself crowded. Odd to be asked to sign nothing more glamorous than the hotel register.

And has MacColl, as he returns to South Africa 25 years after, nothing but his memories? No—there is just one little bit of tangible proof of those great days. I was made an honorary life member of the Johannesburg Light Plane Club, and I still have the little blue-and-gold enamel lapel badge. This I shall take with me.

Moving scene

SO picture the moving scene. It is Christmas Eve (for I shall be in the Union during Jingle-bells time). The members of the J.L.P.C. are gathered in the holly-ridden bar holding their noggins of Van der Hum, an excellent South African liqueur of which I have the happiest recollections.

Slowly the door opens. A stranger stands there. None knows him. The room falls silent.

Wordlessly MacColl (for it is he) points to his little enamelled badge. A gasp goes up. The books are quickly consulted. Yes, here is yesterday's hero, be-patched and greyed, but still valid.

A double Van der Hum is thrust into the newcomer's eager hand, and in no time at all he is joining in a tremolo rendering of "Silent Night." Johannesburg, here I come! —(London Express Service).

The sensation

MACCOLL, the faithful secretary, flew all over Europe with Black in a single-engine Fokker, at the same time consuming large quantities of caviar, dry champagne, and dried cockles. The way an orchestra was playing in a restaurant he would tip the leader £100. And he would tip head waiters twice, both before and after a meal—and in tenners usually.

Well, finally we ran out of European countries and had to cast our net a bit wider. Where to now? How about Cape Town? Splendid. Build another aeroplane.

They built a new one over in Holland and fitted it with two (just think—two!) Wright Whirlwind engines—and with self-starters, believe it or not. Sensational.

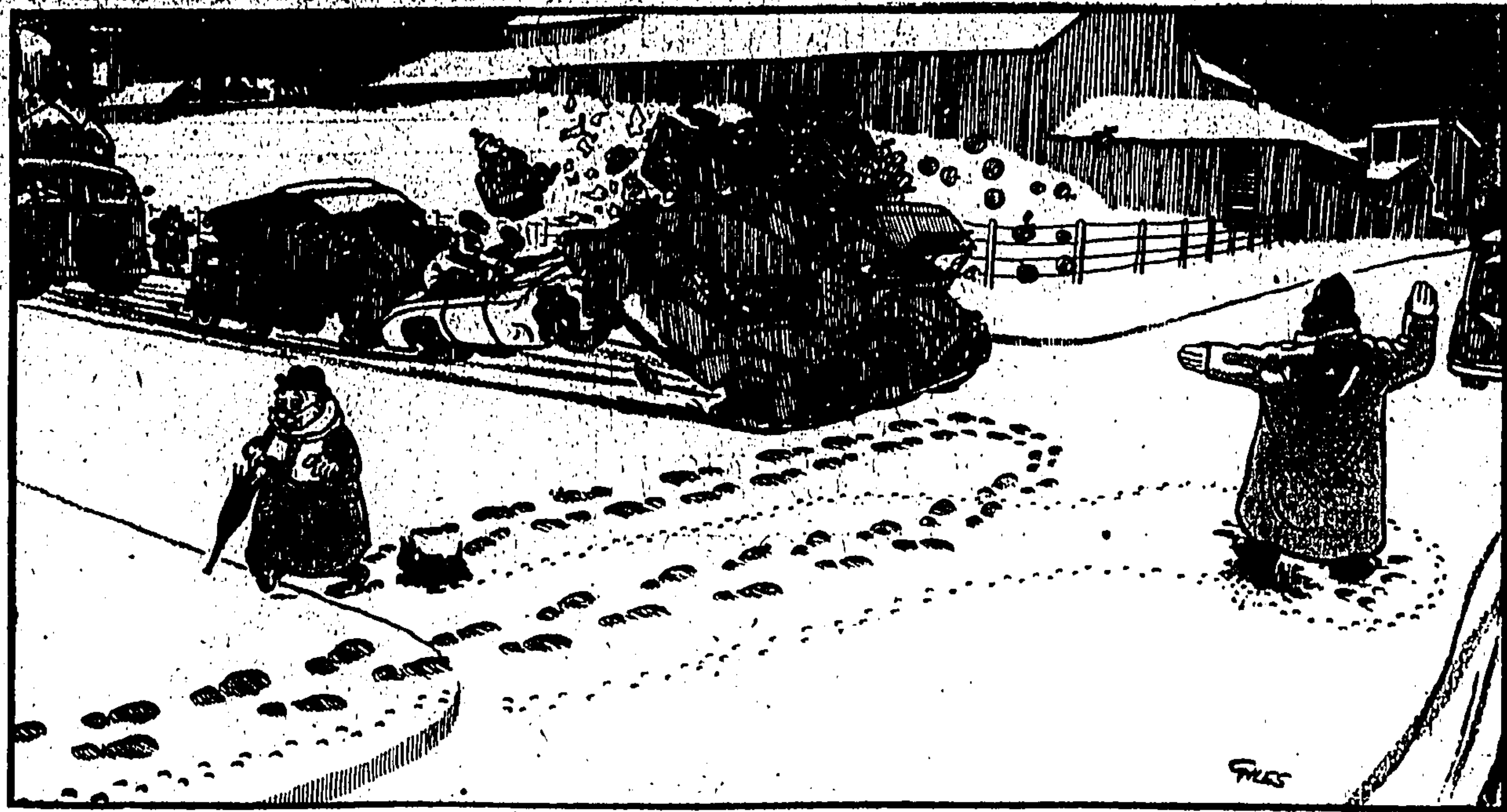
The flight was news across the world, because it was the first time an ordinary commercial-type plane, as opposed to special sports jobs, had attempted the London-Cape journey. Our was a real progress by modern standards, but we made it.

In Cairo our hotel bill (two nights) came to just under £1,000.

The string-beans

IN the Sudan, the giraffes I scamped in slow motion beneath our wings and gigantic turban-tying beans, called Nussers waved their spears at us in an unfriendly manner.

And then the Union of South Africa—and wow! It was as though the penny had dropped at Durban. The Zulus' own private mind-intended jubilee. The lights went up on all sides, and we were in a position to see the Zulus' own private mind-intended jubilee. The lights went up on all sides, and we were in a position to see the Zulus' own private mind-intended jubilee.



"Dear me, I nearly forgot—we mustn't jay walk now."

London Express Service

Enemy Turned Friend In Indo-China

COMMUNISTS WOO THE FRENCH

By JAMES WICKENDEN

London. AN enemy turned friend was normal in the politics of Machiavelli's days. Yet it is happening even now, in Indo-China where former enemies, France and Communist Vietnam, are drawing together.

Another Renaissance touch was to suspect one's allies. This climax, too, may be imminent in Asia. For Ho Chi-minh intends that the Franco-Vietminh alignment will oppose the growing American link with Nationalist Vietnam.

One more omen of danger is growing dissension among the anti-Communist sects and leaders in Indo-China. Whitehall believes there is still time for them to form a democratic front.

But its experts consider that the signs point to trouble, perhaps civil war, in the months ahead.

ALARM

WORLD statesmen have watched this mounting unrest with alarm. Eden, Dulles, Nehru and Commissioner MacDonald have raised a month-long chorus of warnings.

Eden has revealed that Vietminh forces will reach double strength by the

year's end. Dulles has outlined "aggressive indications" in Southeast Asia. MacDonald has given clear warning of an impending struggle—"perhaps by

The Asian leaders make constructive suggestions, although they may prove impracticable. Nehru reaffirms the need to observe the five principles of non-aggression. Malaya's leading Chinese statesman, Sir Tan Cheng-lock, is off to Siam to form an anti-Communist bloc. He warns against the danger of increasing pessimism in Asia. Current opinion there, he says, is that "one day even Malaya will be Communist."

CIVIL WAR

WHAT is behind these fears of a drift into civil war?

It is indecision and divided council. A maze of factional squabbles in Indo-China, hesitancy in Washington, and weariness in Paris bar firm action by anyone.

For example, the Mendes-France group in Paris has largely abandoned interest in Indo-China, except for trade. "Let the Americans handle the rest," seems to be their motto.

To promote trade, Paris is extending credits to the Com-

munist government of Ho Chi-minh. In return, Ho is urging French business to return to Hanoi with a persistent "good-will" campaign. And his Foreign Minister angles for incorporation of a Communist-run Vietnam in the French Union.

But a diehard minority in Paris is more sensitive to the behaviour of Nationalist Premier Diem. As an extreme Nationalist, he attacks the Communist fraternalism, as well as preventing a resurgence of French influence in non-Communist Vietnam.

WARNING

THUS Paris finds enemies among its allies, the Nationalist Vietnamese, and friends among the Communists. This is the fantastic paradox of Indo-China.

Washington faces equally curious facts. They now pay for the Vietnam National Army. They also support Premier Diem, who appears the best hope for curbing Communism. But the Army does not support Diem.

Washington has warned that it will withdraw military aid if the Army is drawn into a coup against Diem. But once the aid is given, Washington wonders how it will control events. This is a role of American hesitations over their Indo-China policy.

To strengthen Diem, Washington works through the only man still with wide influence in free Indo-China—Emperor Bao Dai. Although on the French Riviera, Bao Dai manages to

operate a remote but intermittent control over Indo-Chinese factionalism. He has just sacked rebellious Chief of Staff Hinh and replaced him with Van Ty.

It is a rare combination, an unwavering, high-principled Nationalist who has been sufficiently broad-minded in the past to work with the French.

He will be more in harmony with Diem, and may draw the Army to the Premier's support.

However, this is only a start. Diem may be the centre of squabbles in Indo-China and the focus of American policy at present. But will he last? Even if he does, can a democratic front be built against Communism in Indo-China merely by backing leaders?

Beneath the Indo-China confusion these are real questions.

So far Diem has not appeared to be a good prospect for the Americans, although he is respected in Vietnam. For he is an idealist, unaccustomed to rough-and-tumble politics. He has yet to prove that he can organise a government drawing support from the villages.

THE TASK

AND the villages are where power lies in Indo-China.

Ho Chi-minh takes his whole strength from them. His government and army are based on village committees and home guards which have large local powers. The primary task of the Vietnamese Army, say the Communists, is to be "in the people like the fish in water."

To make equally strong ties among the free villages is the task before Diem and Washington. So far they have hardly begun.

Headache

Do not wait patiently for your suffering to end. Take 1-2 tablets of CAFASPIN dissolved in half a glass of water, and headache will soon vanish.

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HONGKONG

CAN YOU LIVE WITH THAT HOBBY?

HOW many women will become week-end widows on Saturday as their husbands reach for golf-bags, bird-watching binoculars, sports shorts and fishing rods?

When I read the remarks of Mr. Commissioner Blanco White in the Divorce Court recently about the dangers of husbands' hobbies, I set out to examine the case-histories of 10 wives.

"A husband with a hobby is not the easiest man with whom to live," said Mr. Blanco White in a case where the husband's hobby—a dance band—caused the marriage to fail.

But most women I found do not agree with the Divorce Commissioner. "I don't mind my husband's hobby," said Mrs. Humphrey Lottman, wife of the late Mr. Lottman, who was a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. "I just look on all the time. So Humphrey plays and I pot."

★ It may be anything from bird-watching to jazz bands, but there is usually a solution—as at least ten enthusiastic wives have found out.

By Anne Sharpley

advice for a wife married to a man with a hobby:

"Don't fight it. Got a hobby of your own? Mine is pottery and cooking. Of course I'm keen on jazz too, but it's important for a wife to do something just look on all the time. So Humphrey plays and I pot."

Mrs. Robert Ashton, wife of the MP for Chesham, who had a triple silver at Cambridge (cricket, tennis and hockey) and who has been a keen swimmer and sportsman, says this: "I don't mind my husband's hobby. I just look on all the time. So Robert swims and I pot."

don't make silly sacrifices. I've spent hours watching cricket and other sports even though hockey is the only game I really know the rules of. Why? Because I love to sit and knit in the sun. But if it's cold and wet—I don't go."

Mrs. Peter Cushing, wife of the TV actor, is a non-participant in his hobby of making model soldiers (of which he has 2,000). But she says:

"Encourage the hobby. It's a wonderful thing from which he gets endless interest. And it brings him home."

Lady Eleanor, wife of Air Marshal Sir John Eleanor, married a very keen fisherman whose idea of a holiday is "in the rain of Mull or Ireland."

She says: "Go on your own holiday. I follow the sun while he follows trout and salmon. He is only grateful for the fact that I am not a fisherman. I don't mind his hobby. I just look on all the time. So John fishes and I pot."

first—but it really wasn't a success."

Mrs. Henrietta Bennett, wife of the Commodore of the House of Commons Yacht Club, Dr. Reginald Bennett, MP, depends what his hobby is. I learned yachting willy-nilly and love it now. I think for a politician's wife, who sees her husband comparatively seldom, it is important to share a hobby."

Lady Monkswell married a man whose chief joy is riding on the footplate of steam engines. Lord Monkswell is a world authority on railways, particularly French railways.

His wife says: "He rides on footplates in France and I go to Paris. What could be more suitable?"

Mrs. Arthur Peckin, whose husband was recently made Director of Queen's Park Rangers, says: "I have never seen a woman's hobby. I don't mind my husband's. I just look on all the time. So Arthur plays and I pot."

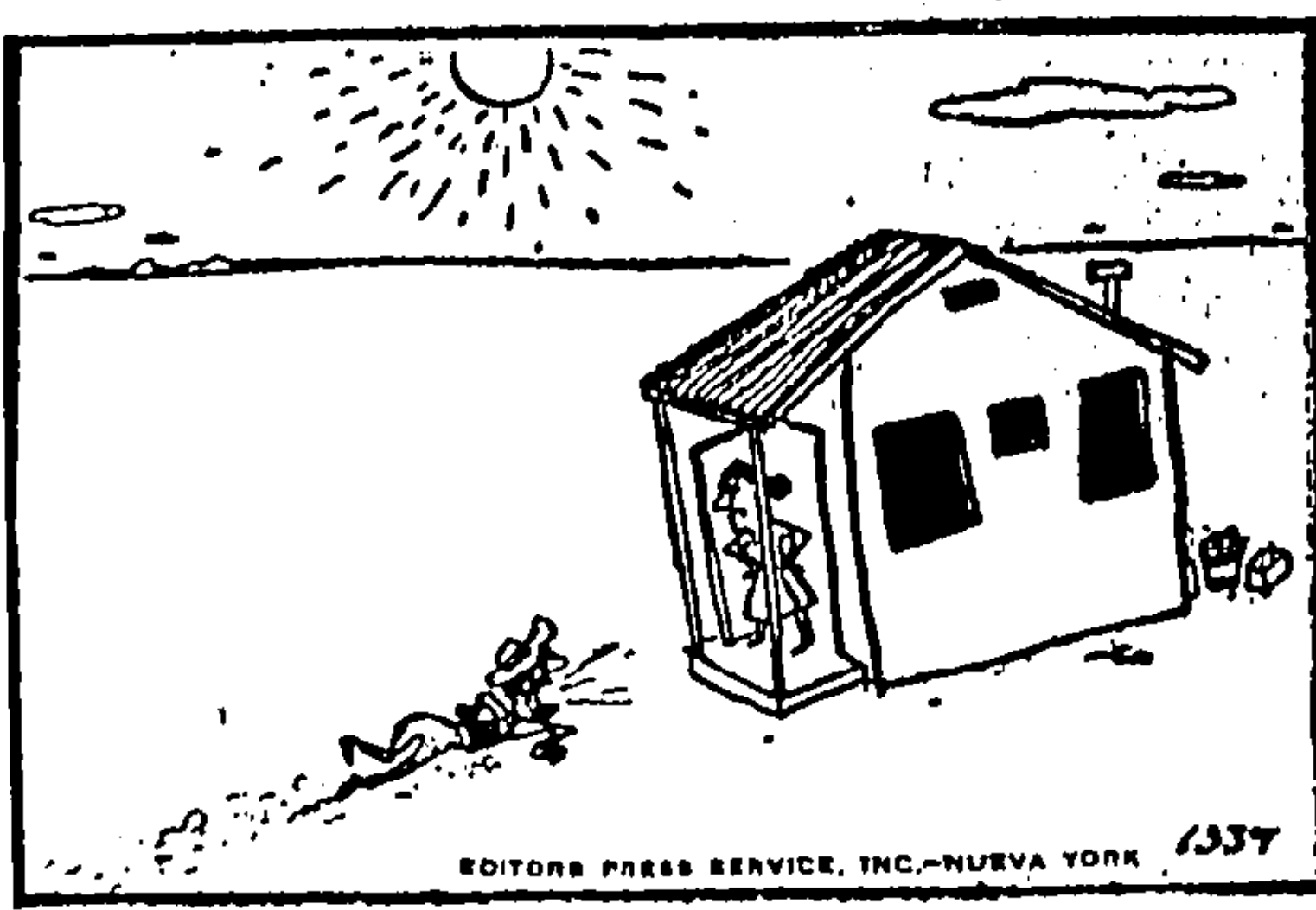
Mrs. Hector McNeil and Mrs. A. E. W. Low are married to MPs who are golfers.

Mrs. McNeil says: "It's wonderful for him. I'm not interested because I loathe walking but I encourage him to play as often as he can."

Mrs. Low: "Although it's both an expensive and inconvenient hobby I'm sure it's very good for him, and there's certainly no opposition from me."

Ten enthusiastic wives were I've no doubt I would have found hundreds more. All happily married and happy.

Lady Cowdrey, whose husband has become a world authority on polo in Britain, is lighted to watch so long as they don't expect me to play. A husband without a hobby would be impossible.



BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

THE suggestion in the document known as Operation Progress that, by making terminal crossing-places at alternate corners of all transverse streets would be more evenly distributed, takes no account of the overflow from main streets which would follow any prolonged hold-up.

More reasonable is the plan for internal circular streets, confined to their own districts. This would allow all traffic in a district to use a series of wide double-lane roundabouts, eastward traffic going round one way, and westward the other. Convergence would be avoided by splicing out each exit from a roundabout in a series of one-way spearhead streets, linked by oblique thoroughfares. By this system, parking places would be by-passed at every corner, and the turnabouts would be fed from subsidiary two-lane trunk carriageways.

Do we deserve such privileges?

FOREIGN, slowly broadening down from precedent to precedent, is about to take an enormous stride. If you can get a scientist to vouch for you, you may be allowed to cross the channel to France without a passport, provided that you do not proceed more than 10 statute miles in any direction from the port, and return within six hours of landing. The complicated administrative arrangements involved in this revolutionary idea will have to be thoroughly debated in both Houses. But by 1957 the daring plan may be ready to be put into operation. It is even possible that, as a foretaste of the heady wine of freedom, you may be allowed, in June 1956, to go to France without a passport, provided that you do not land, and agree to return on the same boat within one statute hour of arrival.

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By STELLA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

BIRTHDAY today, you have a talent for detail which is evidenced by your ability to handle the more intricate affairs successfully. You enjoy organising plans, putting them into operation, and watching them work out. You do not just see them mature as you had hoped, but your ideas are destined to see in full realization. You are always shooting at so high a goal. Your standards are so high that you are fine to compare. Still, you are an excellent organizer and know how to get things started.

You are best suited for large enterprises, for you like to make great events transpire. You are just and straightforward in all you do and expect that others will be the same. Unfortunately you are dealing with a world where many of those living in it are not so conscientious. Hence you will become impatient with those who do not aspire to as much as you do. You are critical—often with plenty of cause. But you must learn to be a little more diplomatic. Discover the good

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—A real turnabout! Good fortune is at hand. Your fondest dreams might really come true now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—If you have confidential matters which need your attention, then now is a fine time to take care of them.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Excellent aspects now. Your own ruler is smiling and should contribute to your good fortune now.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—What with the stars in your favour and your actions geared to positive attitudes, you can accomplish wonders.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—You should have the courage to tackle a job which can put you at the top of the success ladder now.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—If you are planning to entertain this New Year's Eve, then this is a fine time to complete your plans.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)—A good day for all your efforts. Social matters are especially favourable for you all during this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)—Know what you want to accomplish and go right out after it. You can almost work a miracle today!

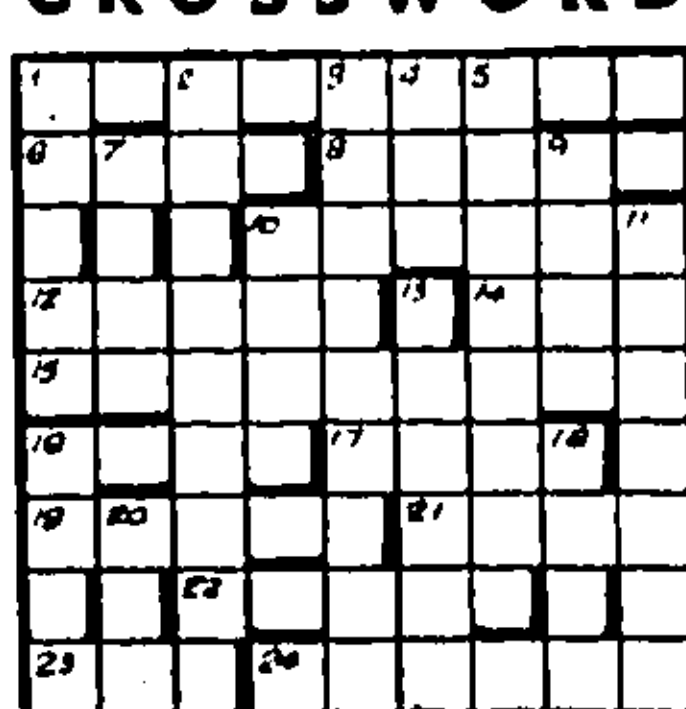
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—Make the most of excellent aspects to do something especially important to your future welfare.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—Your plans should develop exactly as you had envisioned them. Real success should now be your lot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—Another good day. Get an early start and even you will be surprised at how much is accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Avoid too much extravagance, and

CROSSWORD



Across

- A very little change from Buddha's river. (3, 6)
- One for the job starts off many an argument. (6)
- End of the antelope. (6)
- I dwell (anag.). (6)
- Disturbing. (6)
- Disarming in the face. (3)
- Small fry pay these when One Across is at the door. (4)
- It's the sprat that catches the mackerel. (4)
- Follows the Order of Merit. (4)
- Rare makes a composer turn. (6)
- Ice found in December gloom. (4)
- Half of what the trickster puts over with a flourish. (6)
- Chirrup is short for gear. (3)
- Rearranging the diamonds, maybe. (6)

Down

- One with the enemy does not mean painting lessons. (6)
- Accroon's diminution — as Hollywood knows it. (6)
- Supply extra a delence or harm. (6)
- So a rivet gets mixed up for heat of sun. (4)
- Pegs. (4)
- It's a crowd the warp. (4)
- You may be ambitious ones — or just doodles. (7)
- Just doodles. (7)
- One the machine said to erase. (6)
- It's a crowd the warp. (4)
- It's a crowd the warp. (4)
- It's a crowd the warp. (4)

DUMB-BELLS



JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Beware of Artistry, It Can Backfire.

BY OSWALD JACOBY

MOST bridge players would rather win a trick that doesn't "belong" to them than one that does. "After all," they would explain, if anybody asked them, "it doesn't take much brains to collect the tricks that are just lying around and begging to be taken, but it takes real artistry to talk the enemy out of a trick that is really his."

This may be very true, but you sometimes see a player working so hard at this kind of "artistry" that he forgets to make the simple play that will assure his contract. That's what happened to South in today's hand.

West opened the jack of clubs, declarer hopefully put up dummy's queen, but East covered with king, and South had to win with the ace. It now looked as though South might lose two trumps, a heart, and a club. Hence declarer had to find a way to eliminate one of these losers.

South decided that his best chance was to make the two top trumps clank together. Hence he led the queen of spades from his hand and tried to look like a player who had the ace—whatever that may look like.

West looked doubtfully at the queen of spades and thought for one panicky instant of playing his king, for fear of losing it. But then he asked himself why South would lead the queen of spades if he really had the ace. Surely South would get to dummy and take a trump finesse; or, at worst, he would lay down the ace of spades in the hope of dropping the king.

Hence West came to the proper conclusion—that South didn't have the ace of spades. And West played his low trump.

WOMANSENSE

For Winter Sports



Jacqueline de Bief, the world famous skater, surrounded by two promising young French skaters, has just helped to present designer Jacques Liebel's latest creations for Winter Sports. She is seen here in an attractive skating costume during a presentation in a fashionable salon. — Agence France-Press.

EARLIER HOURS FOR DEB DANCES

London. London's debutantes, many of whom work for a living, are supporting the Countess of Bandon's ban on the traditional deb dance hours, which begin at 11 p.m. and end at breakfast time.

The other evening the bright young things went to a party—called a "cocktail dance"—at 7 p.m. and whirled through the last waltz at the Cinderella hour of midnight. The Countess thinks these hours are more suitable for boys and girls who have to be at work by nine the following morning.

"Deb of the Year," April Brunner, a pretty 18-year-old who enjoys reading Greek, thought it was "a terribly good idea."

"It probably will catch on—at least my friends and I hope so," April said. "You feel terribly fresh at 7 p.m. and, actually, it makes no difference to the atmosphere. The lights are on any way and the music playing as usual and it still feels like 11 p.m."—China Mail Special.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Floating on Dandelions

—The White Ones Work Just Like Parachutes—

By MAX TRELL

KNARF, the shadow-boy with the turned-about name, was sitting under the shade of a buttercup, thinking what a nice thing it would be to take a nap, when he heard footsteps. He opened one eye and looked. It was his sister Hanid.

"What's that you're carrying?" Knarf started to say.

A Surprise

All at once he let out a shout of astonishment and snapped both eyes open.

Hanid seemed to be gliding over the ground. Her foot hardly touched the tips of the grass. She circled round and round the buttercup.

She seemed to be carrying something that looked like a little white umbrella with a green handle.

CHESS PROBLEM

By R. LECOMTE. Black, 8 pieces.



White to play; mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. R-Q8, 1. K x K2; 2. R x BP (ch); 1. R8 (other); 2. R x R3 (ch); 1. R x R3; 2. P x K2.

GIVE ME ONE WISH—AND I'LL HAVE THE SHOPS FROM NEW YORK!

By ANNE SCOTT-JAMES

London. BACK from the hand-some, charmless city, I flashed back over all the things I had seen. I asked myself what I'd import into Britain if a genie said I could choose One Thing.

I'd say: Bring Me the Shops.

It's not only the goods I want; many of ours are as fine or better. It's the services the shops offer the customer.

I WANT to be able to go into a shop knowing I can buy a dress, a skirt, a slip, that will fit me.

I am tall and thin, and nearly everything I buy here has to be specially made. But in New York there are masses of clothes in my length.

Fashions are stocked in many sizes and several lengths, and once you know you take a tall 14, everything in that size fits you.

Even dolls are sized, so if you want to buy extra dolls' clothes, you can go into any shop and ask, for example, for a dolls' hat-and-coat set, size 16.

I WANT to be able to shop, sometimes, in the evenings. I think it is a disgrace that many of our West End shops should close at 5 o'clock, shutting their doors to women who work. And that in country towns many shops still close for an hour at mid-day.

In New York, most stores stay open till 9 once a week. (Not sweated labour, just a shift system for the store workers.)

How I enjoyed Monday night at Macy's, watching the pretty secretaries choosing their shirts and sweaters... and the stout, coloured, mommas with their pincushions buying party frocks and toys.

There's no hour of the day or night when you can't buy things in New York. There are always drug stores open.

IDEAS, ideas, they pour out of Americans. Every day, every hour, you see something new.

I SAW windows curtained in a new way in one of the prettiest apartments in New York. Mrs. Francis Brennan has no ordinary curtains or drapes. Instead, transparent muslins through which the sunlight pours unchecked. The muslin curtains hang straight, un-crossed over or draped. But they are scalloped and em-

brodered, seem all airiness and light. She also has black linen tablecloths bordered in black lace. What a setting for china!

I SAW many more painted walls than wallpaper, the colours bright and clear. Most successful: persimmon red walls in a nursery, with lots of white woodwork.

I SAW the new Gourelli Men's Shop, a men's boutique-cum-beauty-salon, where a man can get such treats as a printed gingham tie or a manicure.

I SAW next summer's shape for swimsuits—a sort of chemise. These suits are cut loosely, don't cling tight to the body anywhere.

I SAW the long torso line on dresses, suits, coats, corsets, sweaters, even beachwear. Frankly, they've practically murdered scalars.

I SAW escalators. Instead of lifts in the newest offices, including the UNO building. (But elevators, still, for the higher floors.)

I SAW motor cars with the new, big, curved windcreens that give wonderful vision.

They've even put mink on aprons

WHAT you can do to a mink. You can: Dye it yellow, line it with yellow satin and wear it for a stole.

Have the tops of your stockings printed with it.

Wear a bedjacket trimmed with it.

Scatter it with rhinestones.

Wear an apron trimmed with its tails.

Use its belly for a cardigan.

Go to bed in nylon pyjamas patterned with it.

Go to a nightclub in a jacket of it and look like every other woman there, including me. Because I shall have borrowed one.

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Chic Summer Suit



A champagne-coloured summer suit in grosgrain with black ivy leaf design. Express Photo.

Household Hints

To protect silk fasteners, always slide them shut before washing or ironing the garment.

Heat marks on furniture often can be removed with camphorated oil. The best method of application is to stroke the spot lightly with a cloth, moistened with the oil, then rub immediately with a dry cloth. Don't use a hot cloth; the fuzz they stick to the wood. The final step is a new coat of wax.

Save extra soap for dishes. Add 1% washing soda to the water in the dish rack or on the stove.

Rupert's Latest Adventure

RUPERT and the HOLIDAY SHIP

\$1.00

Rupert and the Magic Ball—6



Running downstairs Rupert finds Mrs. Bear already at work. "Mummy, do look at what has just come!" he cries. "It feels like a ball. I've thought it can be for me? Santa Claus didn't know I wanted a ball because I never posted my letter to him!" Mrs. Bear peers at the label. "I can't understand those marks," she murmurs. "You'd better take off the string and see." But to some he has said that the parcel leaves Rupert's hands and away it goes, floating quickly through the window!

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GETTING INTO TRIM



Ken Rosewall (left) and Neil Fraser, two members of the Australian Davis Cup team, sweat it out in a game of squash in Melbourne when the team went into arduous training.—Central Press Photo.

Promoted Everton Complete The Double Against Wolves

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Dec. 27.

No tiff for Wolves this Christmas. The Wanderers of Wolverhampton, First Division Champions, unofficial Champions of Europe and pride of English soccer, were all set to dexter the "Toffemen" of Everton in a cup from the Second Division.

But it was Wolves who got bitten. On Christmas Day they lost 3-1 at home. Today Everton acted as hosts. Their hospitality didn't extend as far as giving away points. They won 3-2. Some 75,000 spectators packed Goodison Park to see Wolves held at bay.

Everton centre-forward Dave Mackay, who scored twice, was the hero of the day. He scored twice in the first half, and once in the second. His goals were assisted by two other players, and he was the only one to score in the second half.

A welcome Christmas bonus for struggling Arsenal. They won a one-all draw at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea, where gates were closed before the kick-off to follow their Christmas Day win.

Today's game continued Chelsea's mixed penalty saga. Centre-forward Roy Bentley's spot kick was pushed round the post by Arsenal's Welsh International goalkeeper Jack Kelsey.

Plenty of goals in the Christmas stocking for Blackburn Rovers. They swamped Doncaster 7-2 to give them a Christmas aggregate of 10 and take them to the top of the Second Division.

ONLY ONE OTHER Premier Division club, Manchester City, was in the top of the Second Division.



JULIUS KATCHEN

From the London Festival Hall (April 1954): After Katchen's recital last night, older concertgoers were saying that not since Bachmann had they heard such playing. The audience was wild with enthusiasm. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, to all of these he brought the profundity of a Schnabel, united with the virtuosity of a Horowitz. That combination spell greatness. At 28 this brilliant American should have the world at his feet.

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H.E. SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM, G.C.M.G.
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by our Staff Photographers

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Casam Club Ball
Table Tennis Finals
Concert on M.V. Asia
United Services Centre
St. John's Cathedral Choir
Duchess of Kent Hall Ball
Inspection of Women Police
Queen Elizabeth School Sports
Christ Church Nativity Play
H.K. Union Church Party
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ACCORDING TO AVERAGES IT'S AMERICA'S TURN TO WIN THE DAVIS CUP

Says DENNIS HART

On December 27, sandwiched between the goodwill festivals of Christmas and New Year, America and Australia again declared tennis war. For three days at Sydney's White City Stadium they will be fighting for the Davis Cup—and world supremacy.

It's been that way since 1938. In a tournament that spans the earth, these same two countries have fought out the final. Australia has won for the last four years, America, the four before that.

According to averages, then, it's America's turn.

And that is as good a way of forecasting as any. The days are past when players like America's Big Bill Tilden, France's "Three Musketeers"—Borotra, Cochet and Brugnan; Englishman Fred Perry and more recently, Frank S. Patten of Australia, so dominated the world scene in tennis that their countries took the Davis Cup as a matter of course.

STANDARDS LEVELLED

Top players today get so much tennis as they follow the sun from Australia across Africa, Europe, America and back to Australia, that standards have been levelled.

So this year we find that of the Challenge Round teams, Head, Rosewall, Hartwig and Rod of Australia have all beaten and been beaten by America's Seixas and Trabert.

And if that's not enough, Lewis Head, who pulled last year's match out of the fire for Australia with his brilliant win over Trabert, has said that he is fed up with tennis anyway. That outburst, however, can save Australia.

All tennis and nothing else has made Lew a dull boy. Twenty years old, he has spent most of his time wielding a racket under the stern eye of team manager Harry Hopman. He has become an automaton, still playing good, punchy tennis, but with decreasing sparkle. Letting off steam as he did can clear the depression from his system; it can restore that

edge to the play we saw at his first Wimbledon two years ago. That means more snap in the Head cannonball service and the stinging Head drives.

In U.S. Champion Vic Seixas and Tony Trabert, their same team as last year, America have two of the world's finest players. They are more powerful than most, and immeasurably cleverer.

Trabert, this year's No. 1 Wimbledon seed on his brilliant showing in the French Championships, is really great when in form. And there are few newer players than Seixas. Whether at the net or on the baseline, he has strokes for all occasions—and good ones, too.

But Head, I fancy, will neither let Trabert strike form nor Seixas settle down. I'm taking Head to break through America's Singles spearhead and go a long

way to retaining the Davis Cup for his country.

CAN CLINCH IT

Ken Rosewall can clinch the match by gaining a third Singles win. At Wimbledon in June he knocked out Trabert in the Singles semi-finals; the game provided perhaps the best tennis of the whole tournament. Drobny's final included. This time Trabert can reverse that decision, but Rosewall, who earlier this month beat Seixas in the Victorian Championships for the seventh time in eight meetings, can make it eight in the Davis Cup.

All the matches should be close-fought thrillers. If, on the day, abilities are equal, Australia will have something to tip the scales. There will be 20,000 hushed-up cheering Australians packing Sydney's White City Stadium. (—London Express Service.)

Americans Lead 2-0

Sydney, Dec. 27.

The United States, challenging for the fifth successive year, led Australia, holders since 1950, by two matches to nil on the first day of the Davis Cup challenge round match here today.

World record crowd of 25,500 saw Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas outgeneral the young Australians in a day of pressure tactics.

Trabert beat Lewis Head 6-4, 2-6, 12-10, 6-3; and Seixas, former Wimbledon champion, beat Ken Rosewall 8-6, 6-4, 6-3; to gain his first win in eight matches against the Australian.

In the doubles tomorrow, Trabert and Seixas will meet in Australian pair yet to be named.

The United States need one more win in the three remaining matches to regain the trophy for the first time since 1949. They have met Australia in the final stage every year since 1938. (There was no competition 1940-45).

For Trabert this was sweet revenge for his defeat by Head in last year's round.

In a strong gusty wind it was service and volley play, each player following up his service by coming right up to the net.

Trabert was in great fighting spirit. After twice losing his service he won the first set.

But in the next set Head hit back magnificently. He broke through Trabert's service twice and won 6-2, rarely erring with his passing shots.

There was a crowd of 25,000 packed into the stands under a clear sky. Some were reported to have paid up to A £50 (£40) for tickets.

TERRIFIC STRUGGLE

There was a terrific struggle in the third set, which lasted an hour. In the fourth game Head began a run of mistakes which cost him seven successive points, and Trabert led 4-1.

But Head rallied, took Trabert's service twice, and broke through to lead 7-6. Head got to set point on his own service in the next game but, with Trabert hopelessly out of position, he volleyed the ball over the line. Trabert, playing more steadily than Head, kept up the pressure and broke through in the 22nd game for lead of two sets to one.

Head lost a wonderful chance of levelling at two sets all when he broke through Trabert's service in the fourth of set for 3-3 and was leading 40-15 on his own service. Then he seemed to weaken, mistakenly changed his tactics, and stayed on the back of the court instead of stunning in on his service.

Sports Diary

TOMORROW

Triangular Athletic Match—H.K.A.C. v. H.K.A.C. v. H.K.A.C. at Army Ground, Boundary Street, 2.45 p.m.

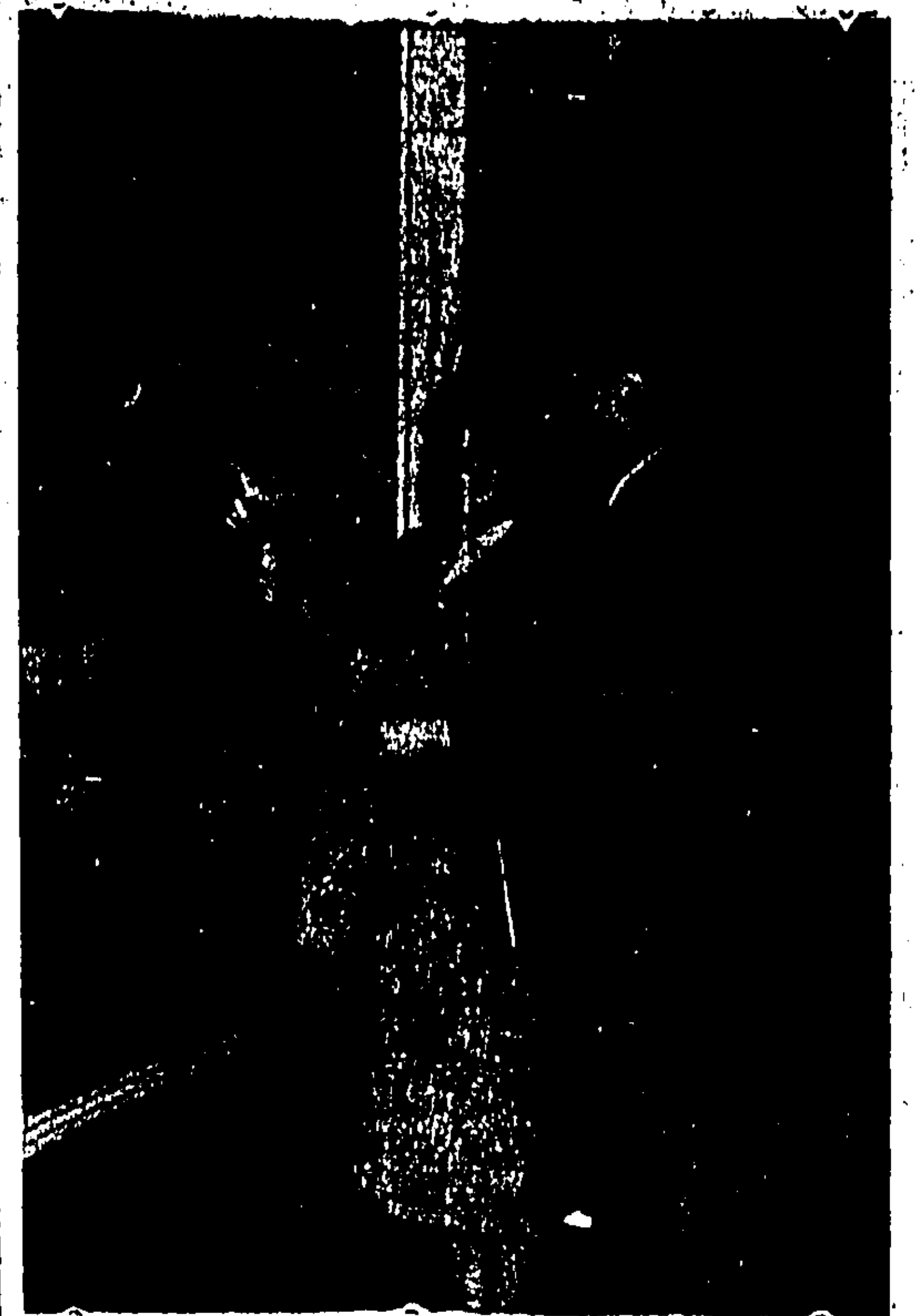
THURSDAY

Meeting—Hongkong Amateur Athletic Association, Meeting at Education Dept. 6.30 p.m.
Soccer—Searferris Football Match: England v. Scotland 4.30 p.m.
Golf—Mitchell Plate Second Round.

FRIDAY

Soccer—Searferris Football Match: Officers and Cadets v. The First at 4.30 p.m.
Cricket—The Third Test England v. Australia in Melbourne.

WORTH £72,000



Juan Alberto Schiaffino, the player from Uruguay who cost the Milan Club £72,000, with his wife, Angelica, has a look at some shops while in London. He was in Britain with his teammates of the Milan Club to play West Ham in a floodlit match.—Express Photo.

TAKE YOUR CUE FROM HORACE LINDRUM USE THE STUN ON STRANGE TABLES

"How on earth did you manage to play on that table?"

The question was put to me by an amateur player during a recent Exhibition game. He was unable to produce anything like his form on that particular table.

Well, cushions vary considerably, and if you can sum up a table after a few minutes' play, you will automatically play the type of game which will give the best results.

This is where I shall again stress the importance of the "stun" stroke. Where you might use "side" to gain a certain position on a known table, it would perhaps be impossible to judge the stroke on a strange table unless you employ the "stun".

If you can execute the "stun" stroke with confidence it is always the safe shot if the table is unfamiliar to you. Playing, as I do, on so many different tables, I ignore using "side" as much as possible and use the "stun" to avoid any unusual angle which a strange cushion might produce.

First, address the cue-ball a little below centre for potting the yellow into the bottom right-hand corner pocket. Play the stroke fast, squeezing the cue slightly at the moment of impact—the white ball should make contact with the bottom cushion and come away into position XI for the green, as shown by the tracer.

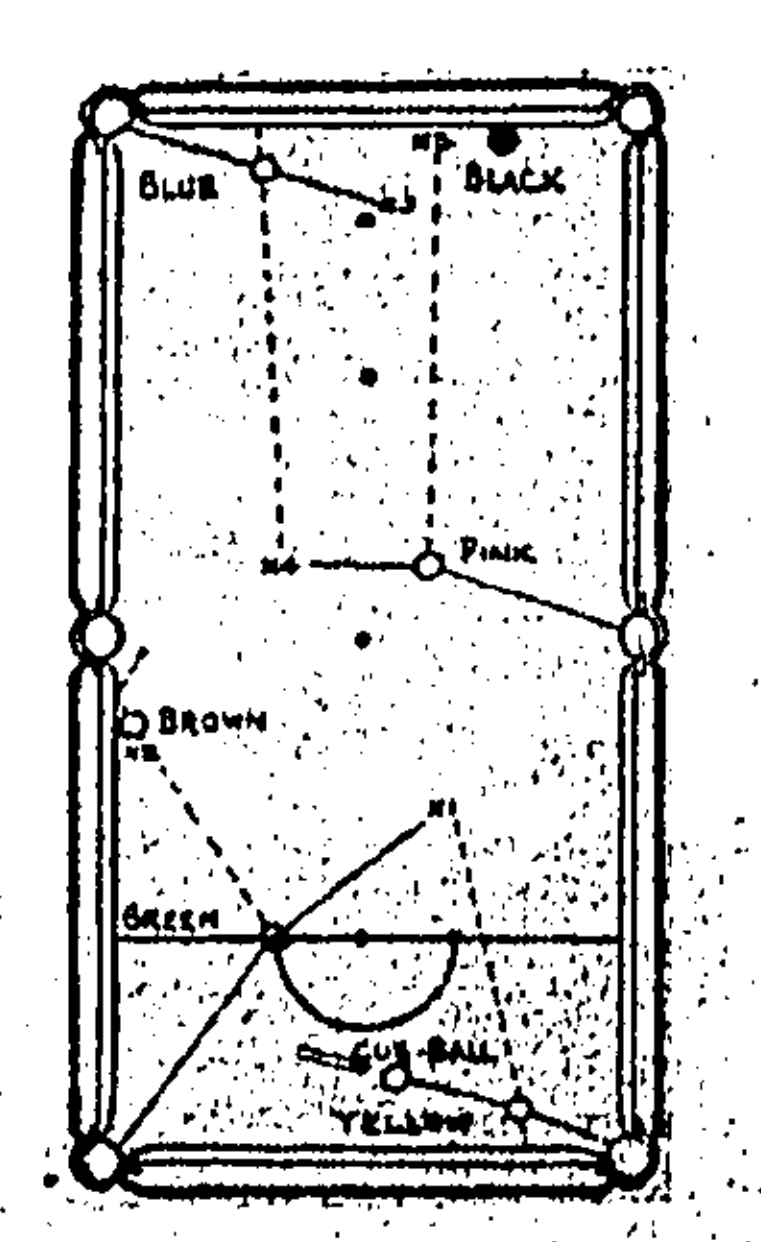


DIAGRAM "A"

The position of the balls in diagram A, shows a straightforward form of play for practising stunning the white ball into position for an object ball.

Study this carefully before looking at diagram B which illustrates the practice shots for clearing the table.

Potting the green into the bottom left-hand corner pocket is reasonably simple, but it is necessary to use "stun" on the cue-ball. This should give a gentle cannon on to the brown, leaving it in a good position, X2, for potting.

Pot the brown into the middle left-hand pocket, striking your white ball on top to follow through into position X3 for the blue.

To pot the blue into the top left-hand corner pocket, address the white ball dead centre and again take a firm grip on the butt at the moment of delivery. Play the stroke hard enough to get down the table for the pink X4.

The next stroke will give you further practice in the "stun" stroke. Striking the white ball on the middle left-hand corner pocket, grip on the butt of the cue and play it with a follow-through delivery. If your judgment is speed is good, the blue ball will finish at X4 close to the black for the top right-hand corner pocket.

You will appreciate that this stroke shown in the diagram is not a specific break-building position; it is designed to help those of you who can afford a little time to practice individual strokes.

THE GAMBOLS



TWO GREAT HOLIDAY MATCHES BOTH ENGLAND AND CHINA FORCED TO STRUGGLE THROUGH TO VICTORY

By I. M. MacTAVISH

What a magnificent holiday present the International Cup matches were for the Colony's loyal soccer fans. A big crowd saw a double header that produced two very fine games of a strictly contrasting nature. They got a generous ration of thrills, spills and great goals and saw a glorious fight back by China who were 3-1 down with the game less than 10 minutes old.

The England-Scotland match was played first and right from the kick-off it was the much fancied England side that was on the receiving end of affairs.

The Scottish side, which included a number of players who do not normally appear in representative football, struck a fine combination and, with Higgins promoting and priming with a sequence of brilliant interceptions and passes, they gave the England defenders many anxious moments.

It was well for England that they had the benefit of a complete defence of regular teammates who had an established understanding, and even then only some acrobatic saving by goalkeeper Lewis denied the Scots the goal that had often looked likely to come from their clever on-the-carpet approach work.

The English forward line, with Moss the danger man, was never idle and if Gardner's finishing had been on a par with his mid-field play they might have had a couple of first half goals. Wainwright on the left wing was always a bit too fast for Wright, but good covering by McKay and Falconer and a brilliant one-handed save by Beveridge kept the Scottish goal intact until the interval.

Right from the re-start England applied the pressure. After five minutes Gardner slipped the ball to Wainwright. The winger left Wright standing before sending an accurate high ball across the goal and Moss, coming in at top speed, got his head to it to register a brilliant opening counter. A few minutes later he repeated his feat when he headed the ball into the net from the right into the net.

The Englishmen were now calling the tune and the earlier

Cricket Lessons For Americans

London, Dec. 27. Admiral Sir Denis Boyd gave cricket lessons to 40 graduates from Kalamazoo, United States, during a recent six weeks study course at Ashridge College, Hertfordshire. It was reported today.

The Admiral, who is the College Principal, will have further opportunity to strengthen Anglo-American relations when more students visit him early next year from Iowa State College.—China Mail Special.

brilliance of the Scots began to fade. The partnership of Leary and Paton started to misfire and later on McLellan was the only one who looked likely to beat the England defence.

Wainwright completed the scoring for England when he caught Beveridge napping with another of his high curling lobes.

VERDICT: An entertaining game played in good spirit. The greater experience of the England team told in the end.

THE MacTAVISH STAR RATINGS

ENGLAND

Lewis	.....
Wallace	.....
Hayes	.....
Hughes	.....
Hewitt	.....
Toth	.....
Stonehouse	.....
Moss	.....
Leader	.....
Gardner	.....
Wainwright	.....

SCOTLAND

Beveridge	.....
Wright	.....
McKay	.....
Higgins	.....
Falconer	.....
MacDonald	.....
Paton	.....
Leary	.....
McGregor	.....
McLellan	.....
Tunison	.....

CHINA vs. PORTUGAL

This game produced the most sensational start we have seen in years and before the big crowd had had time to settle down China were two goals in arrears.

The Portuguese boys started off at a fantastic pace and their opponents bewildered by the sheer speed of their movements. The China defence looked very suspect at this stage and it took them a long time to get over the shock of goals by J. Rocha and Alberto.

They fought back immediately, however, and a characteristic run through by Yiu Cheuk-yn saw the South China side-left scoring a brilliant goal.

Three goals in little more than 10 minutes really had the crowd on its feet, but

more was to follow for the Portuguese boys raced straight to the other end and Wai Fat-kim was beaten again by J. Rocha.

This was sensational stuff. The Portuguese forward line was dynamic but the defence never looked quite in the same class. While Portugal was on the attack Chinese pulses beat fast for Augusto Rocha and his mates were always looking for goals and in fact they came near to getting another one on several occasions.

When it was least expected China pulled the deficit back to a single goal. Mok Chun-wah ran through the defence but got a bit close to the by-line before delivering his shot.

The angle was very narrow and Mantelgas was in a good position, but somehow he let Mok's shot slip between him and the post. China breathed a sigh of relief and turned round only one goal down.

At the second half progressed the edge disappeared from the Portugal attack and the hard pressed defence began to wilt. Chu Wing-keung came flashing right into the game and by sheer football brilliance he steadily cut the fast firing defence to ribbons.

Moving all over the front rank the Kitchee boy teased and tantalised, his opponents into errors, and his three goals — one from a not very worthy penalty kick award — were fitting reward for some delightful play.

Mok Chun-wah got another to complete the China cup-of-joy but the biggest thrill of the second half came at the other end and brought out the loudest cheer of the afternoon.

In a desperate late raid by Portugal the ball bobbed about in front of Wai Fat-kim. Out of a melee the ball was fired in and the KMB keeper bent it out and raced after it. The ball broke loose however and came to J. Rocha who sent a shoulder high drive tearing away into the far corner of the vacant goal.

It looked a scorer all the way but suddenly a blurr of scarlet flashed through the air. It was Szeto Yiu making the clearance of the season by heading the ball off the line.

VERDICT: A thriller from start to finish and played at a speed that just had to be seen to be believed. Referee Kearney, in spite of an unjustified crowd demonstration in the first half, handled a most difficult game with tact and good judgment.

A famous British goalkeeper in a book written about his career emphasised that the custodian's job is to protect his goal in the simplest manner possible. Theatricals are for the music hall stage.

The implication is obvious but how Portugal's Mantelgas would benefit from having the doctrine impressed upon him.

Time and again he endangered his goal by giving even the simplest shot the trimmings of his 'act'. It looks good when it comes off... but when things go wrong goals usually result... and they did here.

THE MacTAVISH STAR RATINGS

CHINA

Wai Fat-kim	.....
Ng Wai-man	.....
Szeto Yiu	.....
Yung Sum	.....
Lau Tim	.....
Poon Kai-hung	.....
Ho Ying-fun	.....
Chu Wing-keung	.....
Tung Yee-kit	.....
Yiu Cheuk-yn	.....
Mok Chung-wah	.....

PORTUGAL

Mantelgas	.....
Alonso	.....
Carrim	.....
Cuba	.....
Cunha	.....
Santos	.....
Xavier	.....
Paulo	.....
Rocha	.....
Alberto	.....

SOCCER ON THE INSIDE

(Edited By Sam Leitch)

Blow No. 2 for Aston Villa. First Danny Blanchflower... now it's England International Tommy Thompson who seeks a move. Six days after Danny departed, 26-year-old Thompson popped in a written transfer request.

"I am very unsettled," says the former Newcastle player who cost Villa £15,000 four years ago.

First in the queue is Hull City. Within two hours of receiving the Thompson news bow-tied manager Bob Jackson was in action. "Just the man we could do with," he says.

But remember it's not so long ago that Villa and Coventry were thinking about a Thompson-Gordon Nutt swap!

Colchester manager Jack Butler has revealed that he tried unsuccessfully to persuade Wilt Mannion, former Middlesbrough and England inside-forward, to return to football.

"DRAGNET" OUT

Liverpool have the "dragnet" out in Scotland. Interest in Joe O'Neill, the Aberdeen wing half-back inside forward, has faded, but the Anfield club has a liking for another Aberdeen half-back.

Greater scoring power on the wing is also sought, and Morton have been asked regarding Johnny Hannigan.

Now Year query for "Spurs." When centre-forward Dave Dunmore starts his National Service, will Len Duquemin regain the leadership or will "Spurs" plunge again into the transfer market?

Preston do not deny that clubs needing goalkeeping inside-forwards are interested in Bobby Foster and Denis Hattell who have lost their places in the first team.

But manager Frank Hill says he cannot risk transferring any player until he has been adequately replaced. The Deepdale staff is too small to warrant being short in an emergency.

GOT THE ANSWER?

"Spurs" captain Alf Ramsey thinks he has the answer to Manchester City's deep centre-forward Don Revie. He says: "Revie wants a man to shadow him so that it will cause a gap in the midfield defence. If you stop worrying about Revie and leave him to the nearest man in the middle of the centre-half when he comes up near goal, the plan loses its effectiveness."

How many English scouts see 70 games in three months? That was the number former Football League referee Vic Rae watched during his recent trip to the Sudan. He was training and lecturing referees.

What a wonderful servant Billy Liddell is to the Anfield club. He gives all his game away during his recent trip to the Sudan. He was training and lecturing referees.

The supporters will be saving up an outside roar of welcome for Billy on New Year's Day.

when the Scottish International makes his 350th first team appearance.

Long way to go yet, Billy, before you beat the record of well-remembered goalkeeper Elisha Scott. Elisha reached 429.

—(London Express Service).



CHRISTMAS IN HOLLYWOOD

Everything Colossal And The Champagne Can Be Swapped For Beer

By MICHAEL RUDDY

Street lamps are converted into illuminated Christmas trees or are flanked with red candles, 10 feet high. Hollywood Boulevard is Santa Claus Lane by Chamber of Commerce declaration and stars of radio, television and motion pictures ride with St Nick nightly in his oversize sleigh drawn by jet-propelled reindeer.

Recordings of Christmas carols are heard every half-hour in the Beverly Hills and Hollywood post-offices.

Opposite the Beverly Hills town-hall are two white-sprayed Christmas trees, 25 feet high, with a colossal illuminated "Season's Greetings" between them. The sound of carols rises above the roar of traffic. Every shop-window is decorated and across Wilshire Boulevard, Christmas garlands made of plastic are hung.

Huge wreaths of synthetic holly hang on shop doors and sprigs of fake mistletoe ("don't it look just like real mistletoe," a saleswoman cooed) over doorways.

But there was nothing artificial about the methuselah of champagne which arrived for me from a film star for whom I'd done some small thing. Footnote: it can be swapped for beer.

MAN OF THE WEEK

Bing Crosby's my man of the week. First he settled an automobile injury damage suit for \$1,051,400 for \$100,000. The suit goes back to October last year when he collided with another car in the wee sma' hours. Other parties claimed he was negligent and had been drinking. Bing's new Mercedes was wrecked.

Second, his last film, "The Country Girl," with Grace Kelly and William Holden, was previewed and from here it looks as if Bing and Grace Kelly will be among the Academy Award contenders next March.

His portrayal of the spineless, lying alcoholic is his best. And Grace Kelly as his loyal, embittered wife is superb. Modestly, Bing gives the credit for his performance to director George Seaton.

Bob Hope, after the reactions to the TV show he filmed in London with Maurice Chevalier and Bob Liller, "Some people don't have much to say but you have to listen a long time to find it out."

Some of the Bee Liller comedy fell flat on American audiences and was "Pygmalion" line. "Not bloody likely" was a line for "Pygmalion" line. "Not bloody likely" was a line for "Pygmalion" line.

Linda Christian says she's taking her daughters to New York in February when Tyrone Power's on Broadway. Her present battle with Mr Power is over division of community property. And Edmund Purdom, who walked out on his wife, Tina Phillips, and two children, refuses to pay the household bills, one for milk, butter, eggs for \$95, says through his agent, that his marriage was over two years ago.

SOUR APPLE AWARD

Training daily for fencing in "The King's Thief." Purdom won't discuss his private affairs. This week he'll be awarded the Sour Apple for being the most unco-operative actor, by the Hollywood Women's Press Club.

My neighbour, Clifton Webb, gave a party for Noel Coward who is at Las Vegas surviving the casino before he decides to accept a fabulous offer to entertain the gamblers.

At Webb's house were Judy Garland, Van Johnson, Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Mariene Dietrich, an old friend of Coward's, the James Mason and Donald O'Connor. Judy Garland sang. The host warbled "I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plans," a souvenir of his Little Club engagement in 1929.

Miss Monroe, dressed in one of those gowns you come out of rather than get into, sang in a sort of whisper. "After You Get What You Want, You Don't Want It." Because he had to be up at six a.m. for "The Desperate Hours" he left at 10 o'clock.

After arriving full of high hopes, "The King's Thief" is a sort of whisper. "After You Get What You Want, You Don't Want It." Because he had to be up at six a.m. for "The Desperate Hours" he left at 10 o'clock.

she won't be available until then. However, after talking with Joan, I can report that she is busy going layouts for "Look" and "Life" and looking up people and dates and doing over this flat I have," she told me.

MUCH TOO BIG

"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," Walt Disney's big feature for the year was shown to us privately. It's big indeed, well over two hours big. Oversold. In my opinion, not one character was believable from James Mason as Captain Nemo to the gigantic squid which attacks the submarine Nautilus. Mason was allowed to overact. Perhaps he has quit acting in films at the right time.

Kirk Douglas — his smiling, dimpled, ultra-athletic self in a sailor's outfit, Peter Lawford — the safe, wide-eyed or narrow-eyed star. Perhaps the children will like it and have pleasant dreams of sharks and octopods.

Chattered with Alan Ladd on the set of "The McConnell Story" about "The Black Knight." "Hope they'll like it in Britain. Worried a bit about my American speech in contrast to the others but that's what Mr. Harry Cohn of Columbia wanted," said Alan.

June Allyson, sitting nearby, "Alan, they love you no matter how you talk." Her husband, Dick Powell, who used to be a Warner star 12 years ago, was waiting between sessions of recording the musical score for "The Conqueror," which he directed with John Wayne and Susan Hayward.

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HKCC And Army Play To A Draw

Fighting the clock to wrest the game from the Hong-kong Cricket Club, the Army were only 16 runs behind the Cricket Club's score when stumps were drawn at Chater Road yesterday to end their friendly cricket encounter in a draw.

A fine century was scored by C. J. B. Leader for the Cricket Club, and when his team declared at 310 for four, his personal contribution was 108 runs in 170 minutes. His score included 16 boundaries.

A grand Army partnership of Withall and Neville brought Army within striking distance of the Club's score in their second wicket stand, which reached 119 runs in 56 minutes. Withall, who hit 48 in a little under two hours, was run out in the closing stages of the game in an attempt to add an extra run onto his team's mounting score. He had then hit 11 boundaries.

HOAD PREPARES



Lewis Hoad, the young Australian Davis Cup player, exercises with the dumbbells in a gymnasium in Melbourne where the Australian team went into training.—Central Press Photo.

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"CHUBAN"	2nd Feb., ..	2nd March ..
"CARTHAGE"	11th Feb., ..	11th March ..
"CORFU"	2nd Feb., ..	7th Mar., ..

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	14th Jan., 1955	14th Feb., 1955
"CHUBAN"	2nd Feb., ..	2nd March ..
"CARTHAGE"	11th Feb., ..	11th March ..
"CORFU"	11th Mar., ..	11th Apr., ..

Via Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

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"SOUFAN"	loads 3/10th Jan.	for S'pore, P. Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg
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INDO-CHINA FRANCE AGREEMENT

Paris, Dec. 27. Agreements regarding future relations between France and the Associated States of Indo-China will be signed here on Wednesday morning, the Ministry of Associated States announced here tonight.
Delegations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have spent months in Paris working out with French officials the detailed consequences of the independence of the three Indo-Chinese States.
A last meeting of heads of delegations today settled the last outstanding points.—Reuter.

Police Cameras Stolen

Wellington, N.Z., Dec. 27. Among cameras allegedly stolen from a recent shipment brought here from Western Germany were two destined for the Criminal Registration Branch of the New Zealand Police Force.
The cameras were among £1,800 sterling worth that had been pilfered from three shipments to a Wellington firm from suppliers in Western Germany.—China Mail Special.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

S.S. "TAIPING"
Arrived 26th December, 1954
Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf Godown at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 29th December and Friday 31st December, 1954, and consignees are requested to be present during survey.
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FAST FREIGHT SERVICE

"MEKONG" (1)	sailing Jan. 9th
"DONAI"	sailing Feb. 11th

(1) will call at London

Jap Economy Should Be Strengthened

Los Angeles, Dec. 27. A real danger existed that Japan might be lost to the free world unless the United States took the lead in strengthening the faltering Japanese economy, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council of Churches, declared here today on his return from a visit to Japan.
"The American electorate must ask its leaders what they intended to do for Japan's ailing economy," Mr. Blake said in an interview.
"Trade with China would not be the answer for that trade was never more than a small fraction of Japan's total commerce. A cut in American trade would be part of the answer. Another more important part would be the general freeing of worldwide trade."
"In all Communist propaganda Japan's economy is always exhibit A. I was told in Tokyo that only 40 per cent of all next year's Japanese college graduates will be able to find jobs. This is just like asking a big intellectual group to revolt to Communism."—Reuter.

Stuttgart, Dec. 27. Ernst Hermann, a 69-year-old town crier of Scharnhausen, a village near here, stops at 60 street corners several times a day to call out the news.
Commercial advertisers may use his services if they pay the local authority. The fee for local advertisers is one mark (1s 8d) and for other advertisers three marks (3s) per round of calls.—Reuter.

Switzerland Recommended To Cut Arms Costs

Berne, Dec. 27. Switzerland should cut costs of her policy of armed neutrality, according to findings of a special study commission announced here today.
At the same time, she should remain on the defensive with compulsory military service and a minimum air force of 400 combat planes, the commission considered.
Economies should be made by reducing the number of certain training courses and replacement credits for the air force, saving in clothing and topography among other measures.
The Federal Military Department had estimated that the basic cost of Switzerland's armed neutrality policy should be 800 million francs (about £42,000,000) a year. But the commission suggested that this should be reduced by more than 40 million francs to 560 million francs. In addition up to 100 million francs (nearly £8,200,000) could be added annually for buying new armaments, the commission considered.
Total defence spending for 1954 was budgeted at 753 million francs (nearly £31,700,000).—Reuter.

No Subsidy For Yogi Establishments

New Delhi, Dec. 27. Sixty-two members of India's Parliament, including the Deputy Speaker, have had training in yoga, according to a private member, Mr. Kesava Jengar.
Another member, Mr. Ramarajan Singh, asked in Parliament whether the Indian Government would give financial assistance to institutions which taught yoga exercises.
He was told the Government was giving grants for research but not for the practice of yoga.—China Mail Special.

Modern Science — Our Magic Carpet

DETECTING BAD EGGS AND MIXING RECIPES

A strange new contraption made its public debut at a New York exposition recently—a machine which prepares recipes dictated to it on a tape recorder.

As spectators gaped, a pretty girl demonstrated that this marvel of the electronic age will mix such things as pancakes in 14 easy steps. All the cook then has to do is fry them. After the demonstration was over, one cynical housewife was heard to remark, "I could do the whole thing a lot faster with a prepared pancake mix."

Despite the skepticism which greeted the new device, it served to highlight the intense interest currently manifested in gadgets—gadgets to increase the efficiency of business and home

operations, gadgets to amuse and entertain, and just plain gadgets.

DOOR OPENER

One of the recent gadgets is an automatic garage door opener. The mechanism works on an ordinary house current, operates instantly without any warm-up, requires no maintenance and is easily installed on any overhead garage door. It's made of aluminum, bronze and steel.

For the busy housewife with limited space, an internationally known sewing machine company has come out with a whole line of sewing machines designed to be used also as bars, typewriter tables, ironing boards and desks. One particular model combines all these functions and also provides space for a cutting table.

An electronic device has been developed by the United States Department of Agriculture to spot the early stages of "green rot" in eggs.

The electronic spotter passes ultraviolet rays through the egg, then measures the green color wavelength. As a final check, the device also checks the example of almost wireless efficiency, the gadget ends up by throwing out the bad eggs. It is designed for the use of packagers, wholesalers and chain grocers.

PORTABLE TV

A gadget forecast for the future is the portable television set which can be carried from room to room as an electric toaster can be carried.

Mr. David Sarnoff, head of Radio Corporation of America, pictures this forthcoming scientific marvel as having a flat screen so that it can be controlled from a little television box no bigger than a jewel case or cigar box. No cabinet will be required, since the television box will contain all the knobs and controls.

The images may be in black and white or in colour, and the television can make them large or small, according to his taste. And a U.S. organ maker prophesies an even more intriguing device—a keyboard instrument which will spur pollination of crops!
Mr. George Haddon, of Brattleboro, Vermont, believes that within the next twenty years a farmer will walk into the barn, play the instrument and thereby transmit an ultrasonic sound wave to a field of grain. The sound waves, he said, seem to be able to shrink the pollen from the bloom, thereby hastening pollination.

Tito Inspects Ancient Fort

Gwalior, Dec. 27. President Tito, continuing his official visit to India, today rode in an open car driven by the Maharaja of Gwalior, and spent nearly two hours inspecting the 1,400-year-old Gwalior fort.

The President saw sculptor and inscriptions dating back to the third century displayed in a museum at the foot of the fort. He also showed keen interest in the Hanu Mandir Palace, built by Raja Mandhata in the 15th Century.
Marshal Tito arrived here from the Punjab this morning. He was welcomed by the Maharaja with the traditional garland and bouquet.—Reuter.

Pirate Plot Uncovered

Managua, Dec. 26. River police have uncovered a plot by Communist guerrillas (Sandinistas) to seize the port of Managua. After capturing a boat loaded with arms, police found documents containing a detailed plan for boarding ships coming to Managua from the Gulf of Fonseca. The plan called for the capture of the ships and the use of the captured arms to launch a general uprising in the region. The plot was uncovered by a police officer who reported the discovery to the authorities.—Reuter.

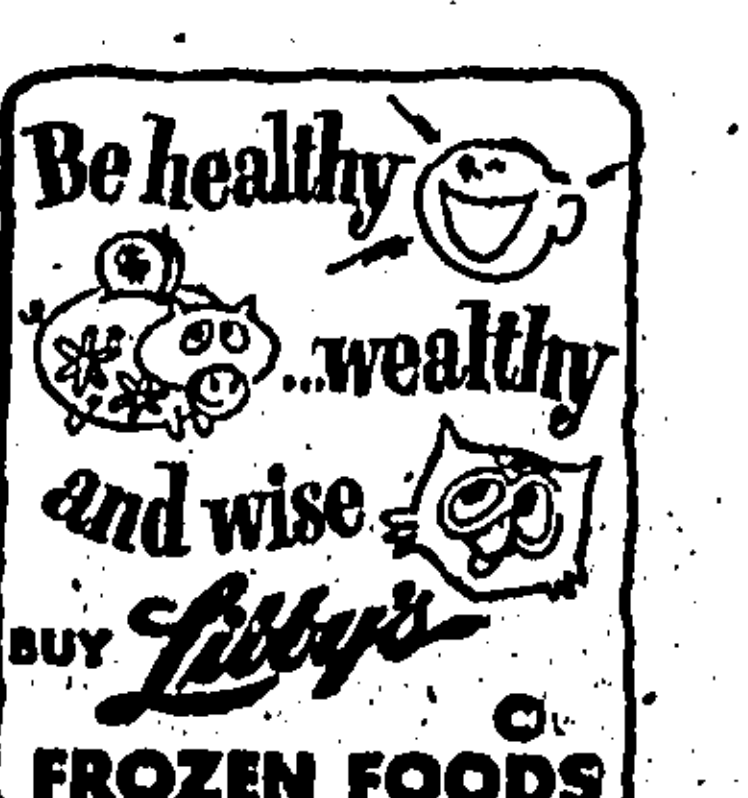
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



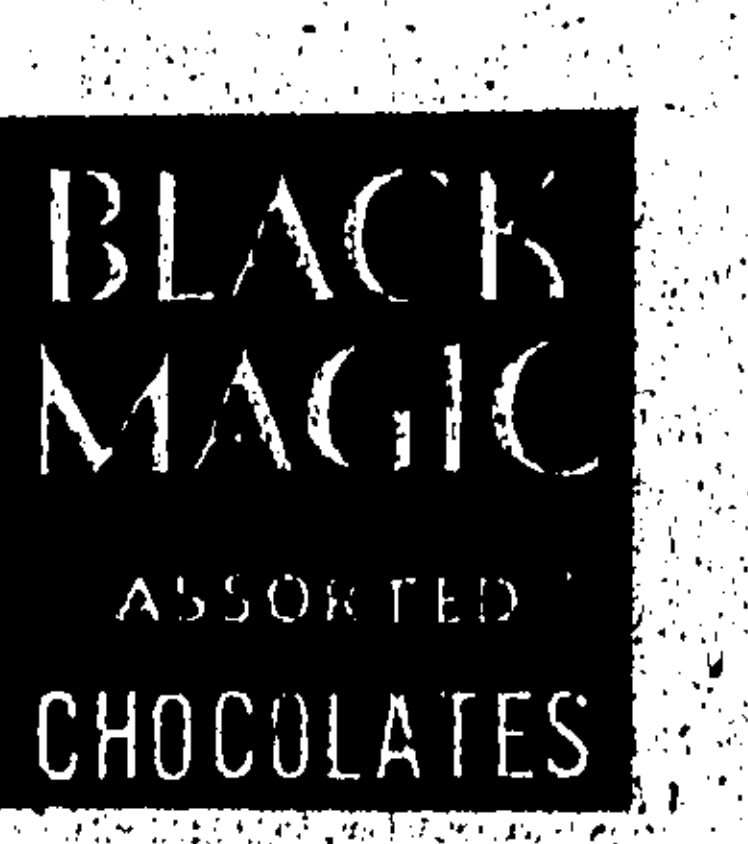
FERD'NAND

By Milk



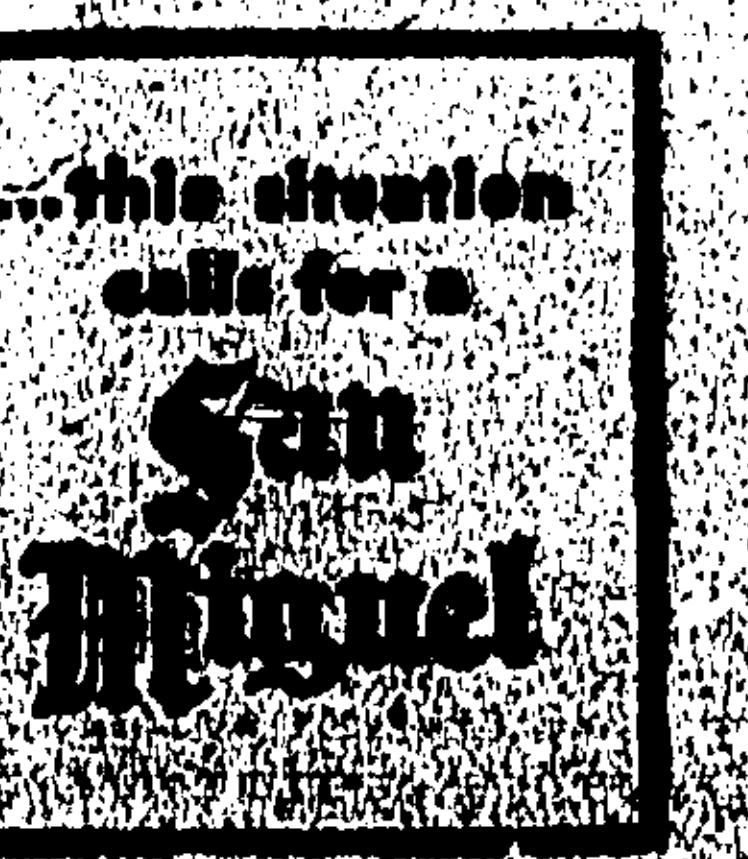
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Page 10 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1954

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

The twin story

THE cut-and-thrust of Christmas shopping was in full swing in the store. A confusion of customers clustered round each counter and the bells of cash-registers rang out joyful jingling music.

A manager surveyed the scene and found what he saw, good. Then his eye was caught by something that pleased him less. He saw two slim, boyish figures, one counter, help themselves to a fountain pen apiece, then slip away.

The manager followed the boys to the Christmas card department and watched them steal there, half a dozen cards. That seemed to complete their business in the store, for they headed for the street door.

'ORPHANS'

IN the street, the manager challenged the boys. He took them back to his office, and sent for the police.

"What's your name?" the policeman asked the larger boy. "Smith," the two replied in unison.

"We're brothers," the bigger boy explained. "I'm Fred, he's Ron."

"Where's your home?" the policeman asked.

"Got no home," said Fred.

"Where do your parents live, then?"

"Got no parents," Ron said.

"Orphans," the policeman said.

Then they told their story, of their mother and their father dying within months of each other, earlier in the year, leaving them alone in the world.

THE KIND LADY

"SO we come away from Guernsey, where our home was," Fred said. "There was a kind lady who was not when she was on holiday," Ron added. "She lived in London, and she said we could stay with her if we were ever here, so we came, and we did for a week or two. Got no one else now."

The policeman and the manager looked with pity at the two boys, and the trifle they had stolen.

"You'd better come along to the station," the policeman said.

WORKING

AT Great Marlborough Street court next morning, the two boys pleaded guilty to their thefts. Ron, who was 10, stood before the dock. Fred, a year older, qualified to stand in it.

"They tell me they've both been in a job up to the time of their arrest," a policeman told Mr. Paul Bennett, M.C., the magistrate, "and that they have been living in lodgings."

Neither Fred nor Ron had anything more to say. Their case was remanded for a week, so that the police and Mr. Charles Morgan, the probation officer, could find out more about them.

When next they were brought to court, they were both shown into the space before the dock. It had been discovered that they were both 10 years old.

DISCREPANCIES

MR MORGAN went into the witness-box to point out one or two other discrepancies in their story. Their names are not Smith, he said. "They are not brothers, just friends, and their parents are not dead."

"They do come from Guernsey, and they have been working in London. But they shouldn't have been, for both are absentees from a boys' battalion in the Army."

An Army officer rose to confirm the fact.

"You'd better have them back," the magistrate said to the officer.

"Very good, sir," the officer answered. "And the looks that he gave the boys as he led them out, and the looks that they returned as they left the courtroom, suggested that an interesting chapter in the saga of Ron and Fred was about to open in Guernsey."

Train Crash: 6 Killed

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 27. Six people were killed and at least 40 others injured today when a Brazil Central Railway passenger train rammed a stationary train filled with holiday travellers, near the town of Miguel Pereira, Rio de Janeiro State.—United Press.

Thailand Concerned Over Vietnamese Refugees In The North

Bangkok, Dec. 27. The greatest threat to Thailand's security from the Communists today lies in a large group of refugees from the Indo-China war.

Some Thai and American officials have used the term "explosive" to describe the problem of an estimated 50,000 Vietnam refugees residing in the north-eastern provinces of Thailand.

What should be done with the refugees from the fighting in Vietnam, and to a lesser extent in Laos, and the implications caused by their presence in Thailand will be the major issue of the newly appointed United States Ambassador, Mr. John Puerfuerst.

Thailand wants to get rid of the Vietnamese quickly for a number of reasons, one being that they are occupying and using land that could be used by the Thai. Another is that they are believed to be predominantly loyal to the Vietnamese and as such provide a convenient base for Communist infiltration and agitation.

One of the main reasons for Thailand's urgency is that she wants to get the problem settled before Ho Chi-minh's Vietnamese regime digests its Geneva gains and, using its large military force as a threatening force, adopts the role of protector toward its people across the Mekong River.

OBJECT TO FRENCH

The overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese (about 90 per cent according to Government spokesmen) stated in a recent questionnaire that they would not go to South Vietnam because of their objection to French control. They have shown little or no inclination, however, to return to North Vietnam and Communist control.

Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Phibun Phibul Songram, said recently he would use force if necessary to get the Vietnamese out of his country. He did not say where he would "force" them to or when he would start.

American officials in Bangkok have a fear that this "persecution" of Vietnamese nationals might be precisely what the Communists want to give them an excuse for intervening.

They are using moderation in their discussions with Thai officials on the problem.

The majority of the refugees found their way to Thailand over the last seven years when fighting drove them from their homes in Vietnam.

POLITICAL REFUGEES

A few of them, however, are political refugees who fled from the French as far back as the late 1930's.

The north-eastern area where the hard working Vietnamese have settled in clannish groups is one of the most unproductive parts of Thailand. The poor soil of the flatlands south and west of the Mekong River, which divides Indo-China and Thailand, is not good for rice. This year the area suffered more than usual, first going through a drought and then floods that washed away much of the young crops.

The Vietnamese, admitted by even the Thais themselves to be harder workers and better administrators, have virtually taken over whole towns and sections.

They openly proclaim their devotion to Ho Chi-minh. Visitors to the area report that virtually every Vietnamese home has a shrine with a picture of the Communist leader.

UNDERGROUND OFFICIALS

Intelligence reports indicate that the Vietnamese operate outside the jurisdiction of Thai law, authority, electing their own underground officials, collecting their own taxes, running their own courts and pronouncing sentences, including the death sentence.

The Government says it has evidence that the Vietnamese areas are hotbeds of Communist fermentation with a steady stream of agents and agitators from Vietnam.

The question of how to get rid of the Vietnamese is one question for which no one here has yet found an answer. Field Marshal Phibun has asked the United States to pay for shipping them out. There have been indications that the United States would pay part or all of the transportation but the problem remains: where should they be sent?

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Harold gave me this encyclopedia because I let him think I'm intellectual—I'm going to exchange it for perfume!"

THE DUCHESS OF KENT HAS A LUXURIOUS NEW HOME

London, Dec. 27. The Duchess of Kent will move into a luxurious new home on New Year's day.

A house in Kensington Palace near Hyde Park has been restored and re-decorated for her. All the painting and papering was done while the Duchess was in America last Autumn and now her furniture, much of it kept in a London storeroom since 1940 when the Kents' Belgrave Square house was hit in the blitz, is rapidly being installed.

In 1955 Kensington Palace will be the scene of dinners and parties such as it has not known for many years past as the Duchess, an aunt of Queen Elizabeth II, entertains for her debutante daughter, Princess Alexandra, who was 18 on Christmas Day.



THE DUCHESS OF KENT

The Duke of Kent will live there when he gets leave from the Army and Prince Michael, the 12-year-old schoolboy who is godson of the late President Roosevelt, will stay in the Palace apartments too.

£50,000 SPENT

The country farm-house home of the Kents, the Coplands at Iwer in Bucks, will still be kept on but most of the Duchess's time will henceforth be spent in London.

Everything in the new royal residence is essentially elegant, very characteristic of her cultured tastes. About £50,000 has been spent in reconstructing this "grace-and-favour home," that is, a house which is the personal gift of Her Majesty the Queen who can choose the tenants for it.

It is not far from the Russian Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens and has open access to the park.

No Confirmation Of Churchill Trip To U.S.A.

Washington, Dec. 27. Both British and United States officials today disclaimed knowledge of a possible Washington conference between Sir Winston Churchill and President Eisenhower in January.

The officials were commenting on reports which said that Sir Winston was planning to fly to Washington for urgent talks on Western unity.

Conviction Against Alleged Gold Smuggler Quashed

The Magistrate's conviction of Ng Chee, 22, on a charge of importing gold without a licence, was, on appeal, quashed by Mr Justice C. W. Reece, Puisne Judge, in the Appeals Court this morning. He allowed the appeal and discharged Ng Chee.

Appellant was convicted by Mr Hin-shing Lo for importing on board the motor junk Kai Tai in Cannaught Road Central in September 6, 1954, 30 bars of gold without a licence. Ng was fined \$1,000.

Mr A. J. Clifford, instructed by Mr J. C. Stewart of Messrs Stewart and Company appeared for the appellant.

The Crown was represented by Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr, Senior Crown Counsel.

STRAIGHTFORWARD

Mr Clifford said that the appeal was a straightforward one and rested on whether or not there was sufficient evidence to base the conviction. Counsel suggested that the Magistrate left out an important fact for the defence, which related to the berthing of the motor vessel on

its arrival from Macao on September 1st.

It was not until 11.15 a.m.—nearly four hours after the boat's arrival—that an informer pointed out the appellant who was then searched and the gold found on him.

There were two accounts as to the circumstances of the arrest, but it appeared, said Counsel, that the Magistrate resolved in favour of the Prosecution.

NOT ON BOARD

Mr Clifford said that evidence given by the complainant of the ship was to the effect that appellant was not on board during the trip from Macao to Hongkong. Appellant, Counsel said, was given three or four days leave from September 4, by the master. After referring to the Magistrate's finding, Counsel said that the question of the appellant not being on board but on leave appeared to have been accepted.

The evidence amounted to the fact that four hours after the ship had arrived, appellant came off with some gold on him, not having been a member of the crew during the voyage from Macao. Counsel submitted that stipulation was not enough and, after referring to an authority on circumstantial evidence, said that facts must be incompatible with innocence.

Mr Blair-Kerr said he agreed it was a case of some hours after the ship had berthed that appellant was seen coming off with carrying gold. The only question was whether appellant was or was not on board during the voyage.

CROWN'S CASE

He submitted that the evidence of the complainant was not probative either way. The witness did not say appellant was not on board; he said he did not see him on the boat.

The master, Counsel went on, had stated that he gave appellant four days' leave and they were now thrown back on the finding of the Magistrate, who stated that he could not accept the whole of the testimony of the master and the complainant without serious doubts.

Mr Blair-Kerr said that it was the case for the Crown that appellant was on board the ship on that trip from Macao.

If the Court drew inferences of fact and said it was a reasonable inference that appellant, coming off the junk which had berthed some hours previously with gold in his person, could be said to have imported gold into the Colony, the appeal must be dismissed. But if his Lordship found it was not a reasonable inference of facts the appeal must be allowed, he said.

NOT JUSTIFIED

Dismissing the appeal, his Lordship said that the last paragraph of the Magistrate's judgment (in which Mr Lo said in effect that he had serious doubts) appeared to him that the Magistrate should have given the benefit of the doubts to the appellant. If the Magistrate found himself in any state of doubt it was his duty to give that doubt to the accused, he said.

The Judge said that on the evidence the Magistrate could not justifiably find that appellant was a member of the crew on that trip. Even if he found he was a member, the fact that appellant was seen four hours later would have raised serious doubts in his mind that he had not imported the gold. The Magistrate was not justified on the evidence to find appellant guilty of the offence, the Judge declared.

CONVICTED ON JUNE 4

Mr Chan said it was important to determine whether the appellant was at fault in the present case. He was convicted on June 4 and in the normal course of events he would have had up to July 4 to enter into a recognisance. On June 22 a letter was sent to him care of his solicitors requiring him to attend at Pingshan Court on June 28 for this purpose.

It took some time to get in touch with him and he failed to turn up on the stipulated date, but he still had almost a week to comply with the provisions.

When he did appear, the Magistrate was in hospital. Eventually August 10 was appointed as the date for appellant to appear and he executed the recognisance before Mr Creedon, who had taken Mr Chan's place.

Mr Chan said that while it was limited the strict procedure had not been followed, appellant had pointed out the provisions of the Ordinance. He submitted that the present was a borderline case where the Court should determine whether the delay had been the fault of the appellant. If there was a doubt, he asked that it be given to appellant.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

STOP PRESS

New Draft Bill Approved

Paris, Dec. 27. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly today approved a new draft bill on the question of a Western European Union by 18 votes to 17 with 10 abstentions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Government Salaries

Sir,—Publication in the Sunday Post-Herald on Christmas day of a release by Government for a revised scheme of salaries and pensions, transmitted to the Secretary of State, because Government is unable to accept some of the material recommendations of the Skene Commission, must have caused many others to wonder as to what the Colony is being committed. No details were given in the release, but it is safe to assume that with a somewhat larger measure of consolidation of central living into basic salary, a considerable increase in the pensions bill is involved.

Dr Sloss was brought out at some expense to provide on a salaries commission appointed by H.E. the Governor, consisting of a nominated member of the Legislative Council and a well-known member of the Chinese community with a civil servant acting as Secretary. The Commission drew up a report which went fully into the question of salaries and pensions, and made various recommendations which the mercantile community considered not ungenerous.

Upon receiving the report, Government was unable to accept some of the major recommendations, and a senior civil servant was directed to draw up a revised scheme. This revised scheme was transmitted to the Secretary of State for his approval, presumably with the concurrence of Executive Council. From the "release" it appears that part of the revised scheme has been approved and is being put into effect.

It must be assumed the unofficial members of the Executive Council were informed of the cost of pensions under the revised scheme before the Secretary of State's approval was sought, and other taxpayers would welcome information on approximate pensions cost:

- (a) of present
 - (b) under the Sloss Scheme
 - (c) under Government's revised scheme
- upon the assumption that no further departments will be opened, and no substantial increase in staff is contemplated.
- The business outlook is far from bright, and while the majority of commercial undertakings in the Colony have been compelled to reduce staffs or salaries, Government launches a scheme to increase salaries and reward retiring civil servants with pensions in excess of salaries paid to persons actively engaged in similar work in the U.K.

I am confident many share the view that this is not the time to burden the Colony with increased expenditure for pensions and I appeal to unofficial members of the two Councils to protest in the strongest terms against the adoption of any scheme which substantially increases the pensions bill.

J. HENNESSEY BETH.

Far East Conflict Predicted In 1955

Hamburg, Dec. 27. Astrologers predicted today that in 1955 there would be peace in Europe, but an armed conflict would break out over Formosa involving Britain, the United States and China.

The prediction was made by the recruiting of German soldiers, the death of a leading British politician and "dramatic happenings" around Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 6 p.m. Time Signal and Programme Summary: 6.05 BBC Hongkong, 6.15 C.W.S. Band, 6.20 George Hawkins (BBC), 6.25 "Foot Hearing" presented by Hugh Sullivan (Studio), 6.30 "The Report", 7. Time Signal and World News (London), 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 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